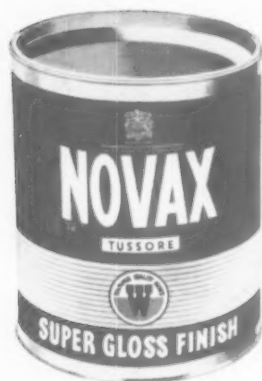


THE
ARCHITECT
& BUILDING NEWS

In this issue

- VIENNA REVISITED
- WILTON ESTATE, HACKNEY
- DORMITORY BLOCK, MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 6, 1950 · VOL 198 · NO 4268 · ONE SHILLING WEEKLY



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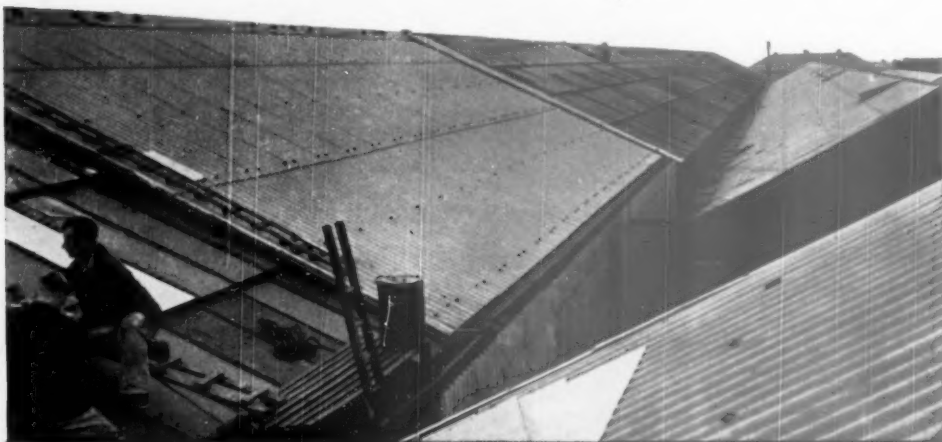
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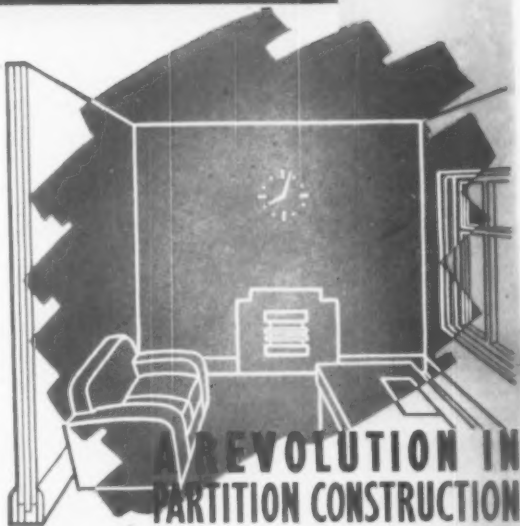
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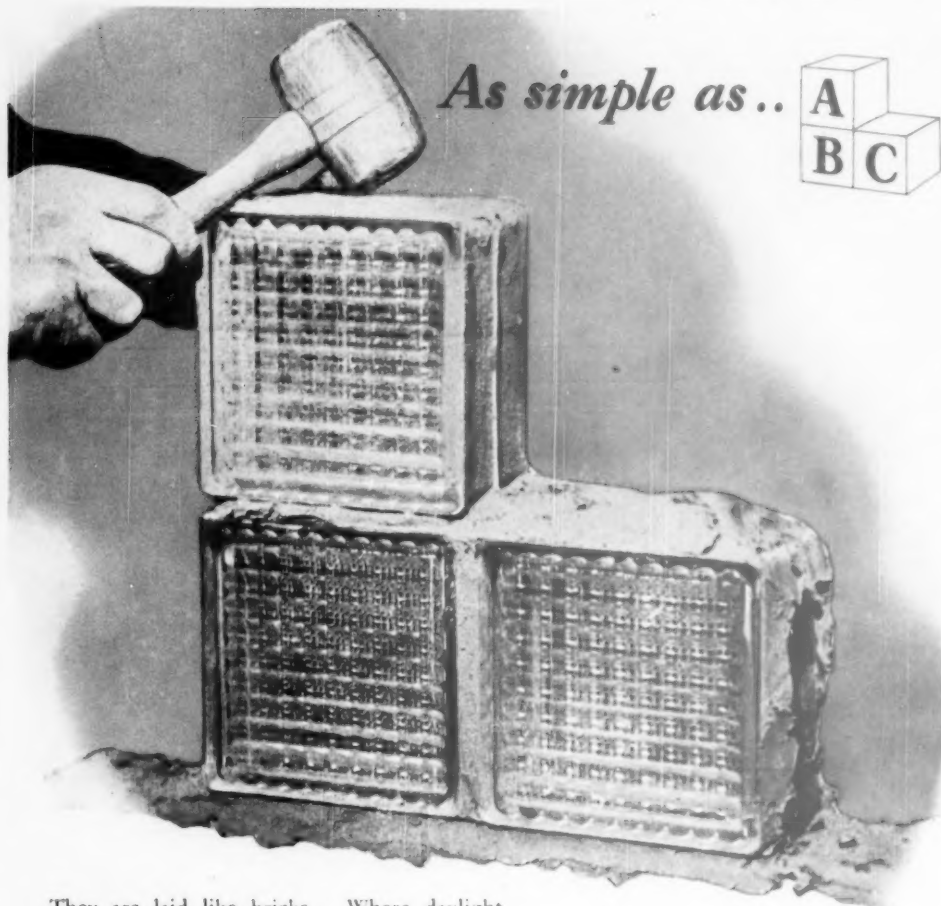
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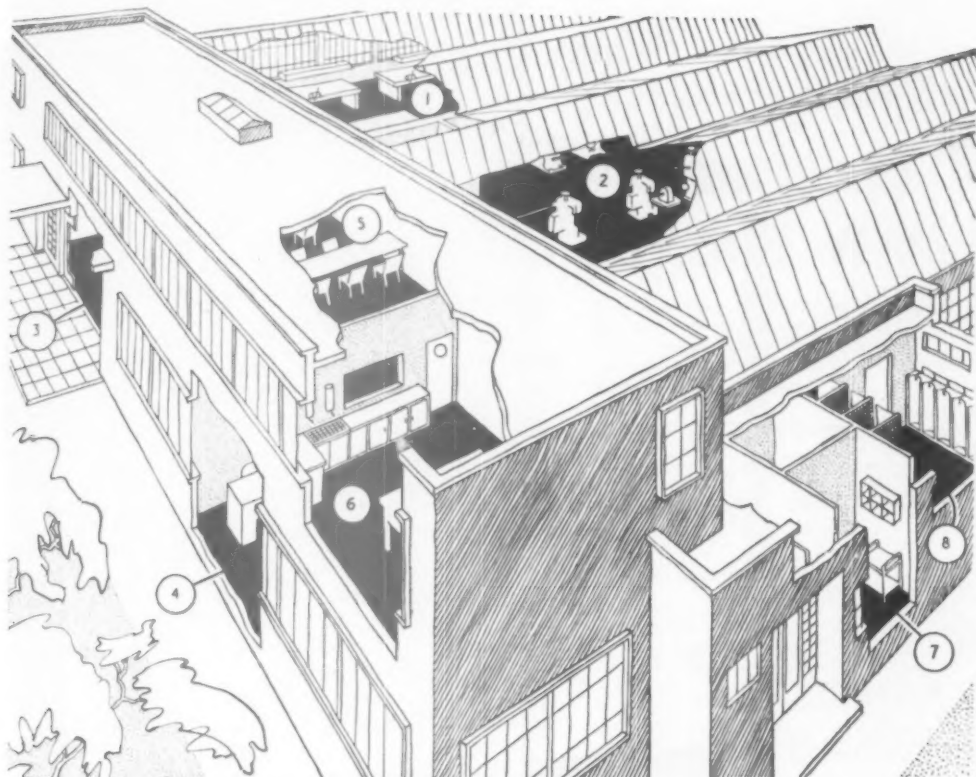
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5. CANTEENS	*	*	—	*	*	*	—	*
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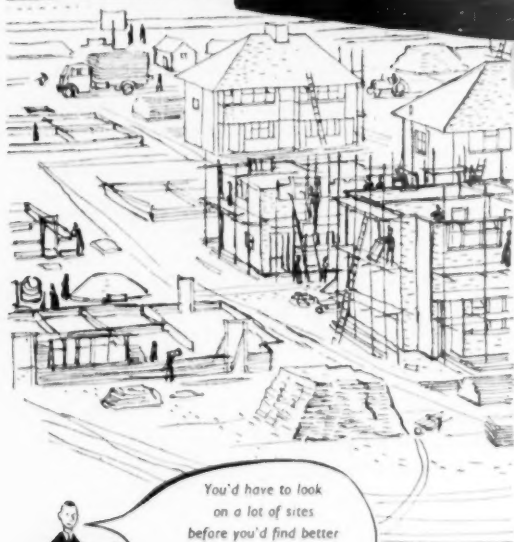
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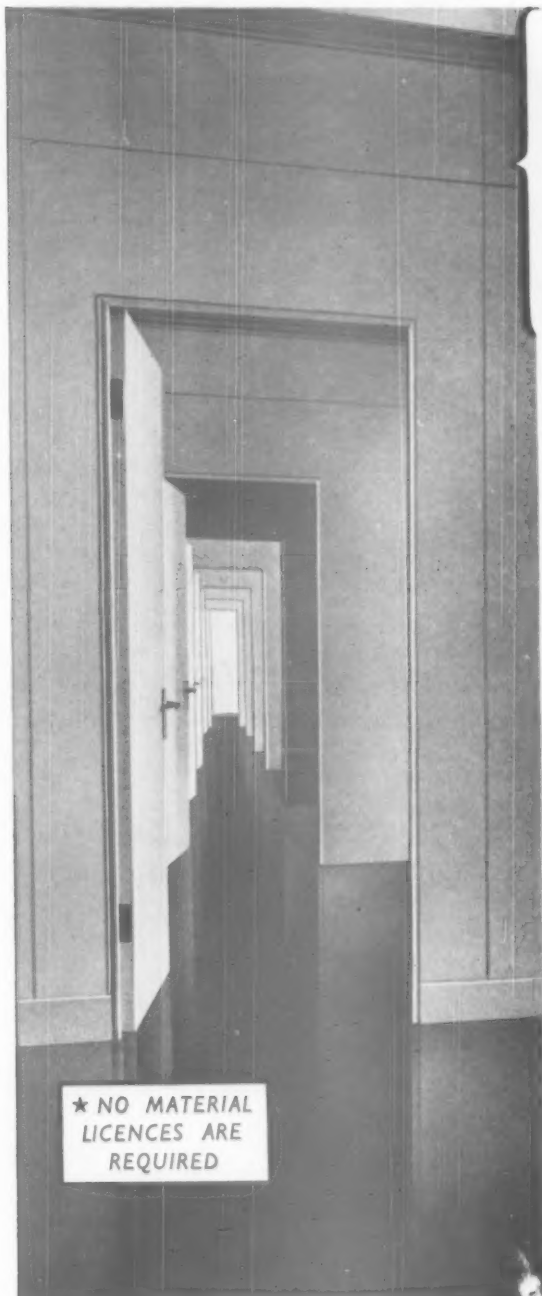
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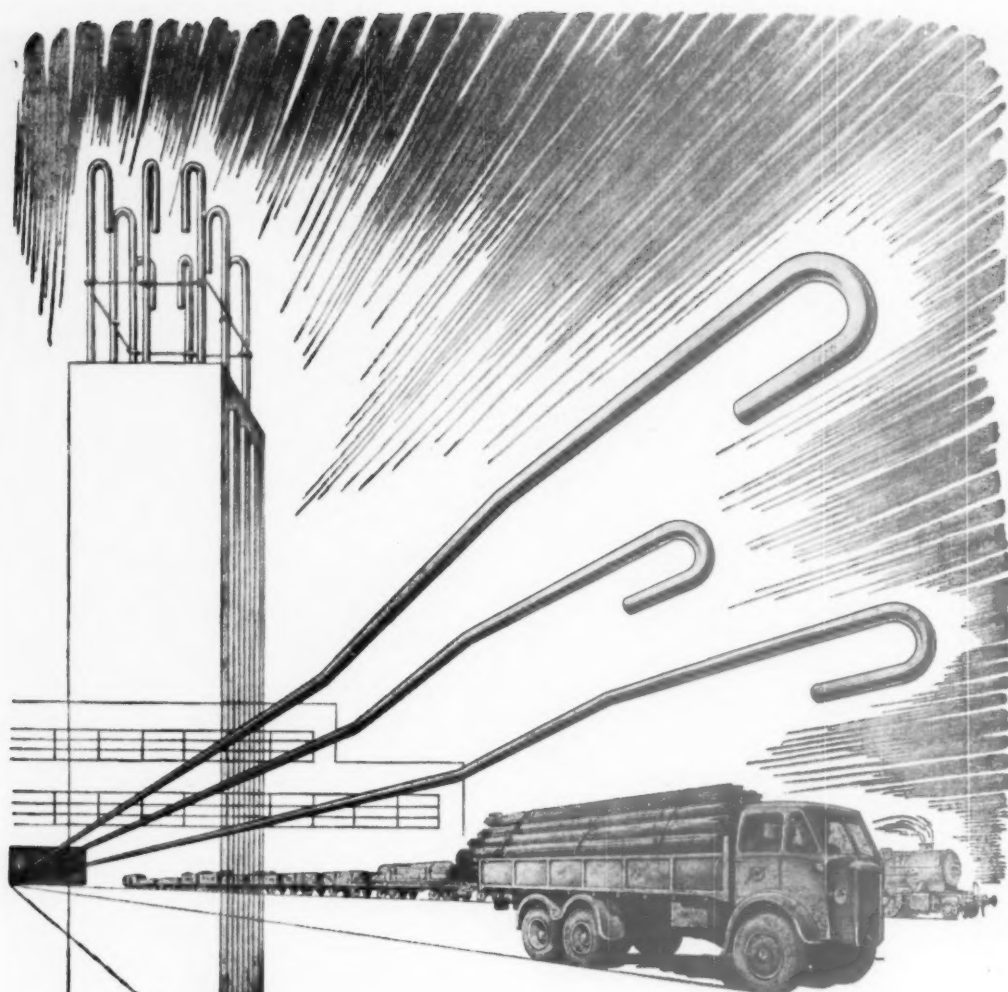


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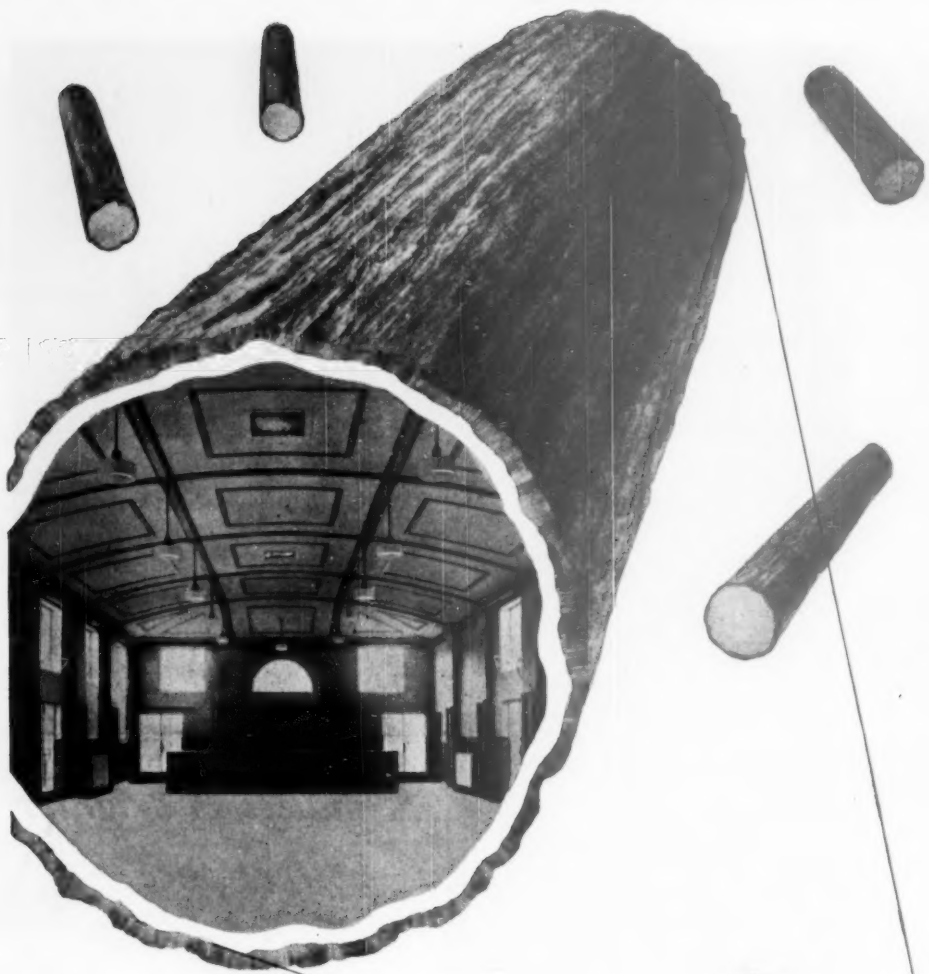


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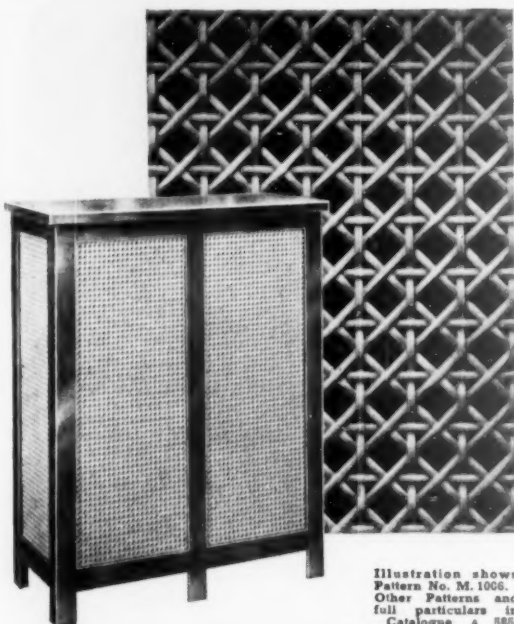


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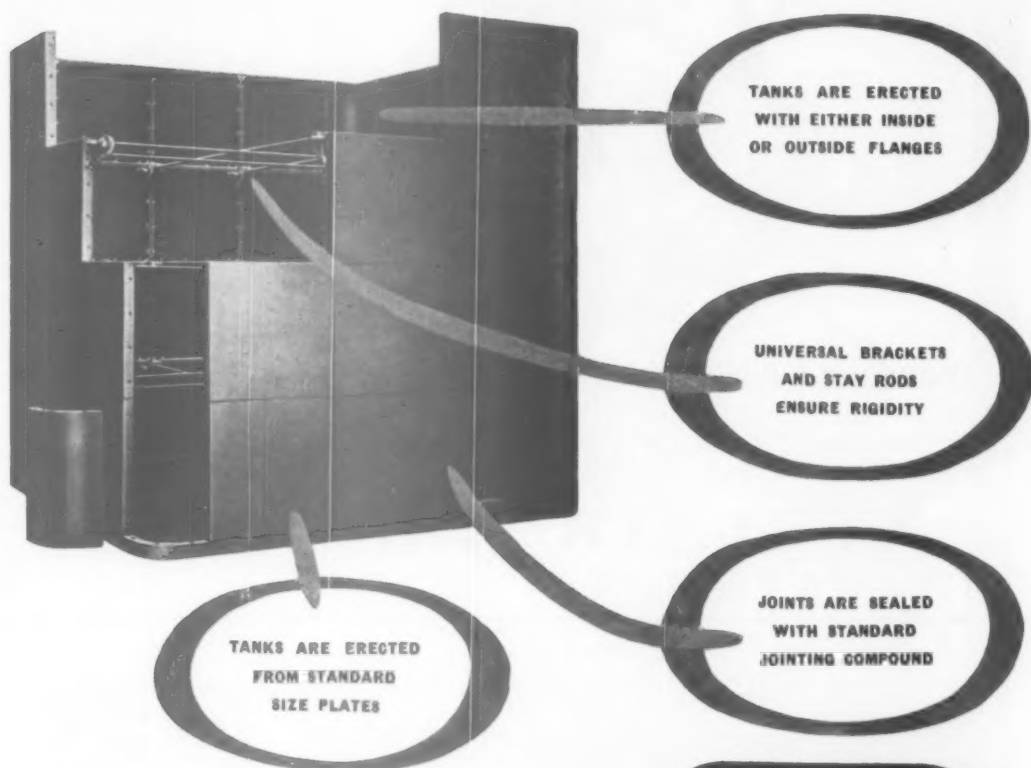
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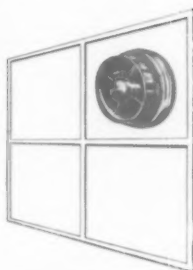
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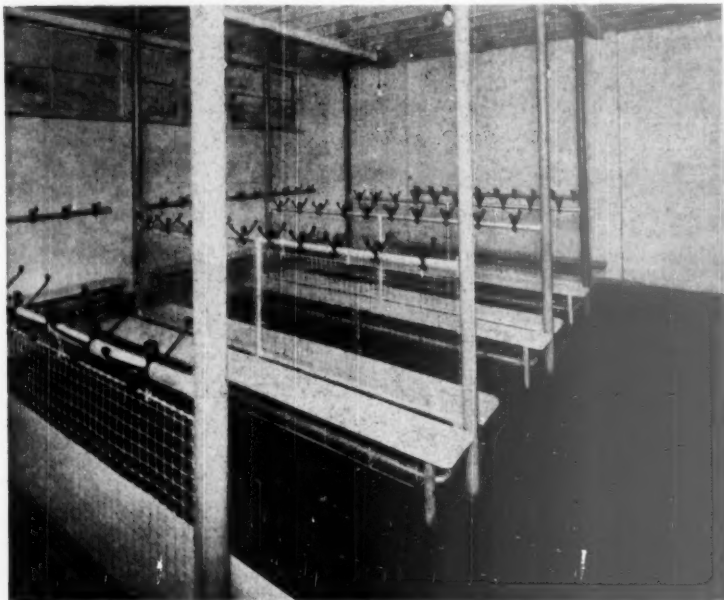
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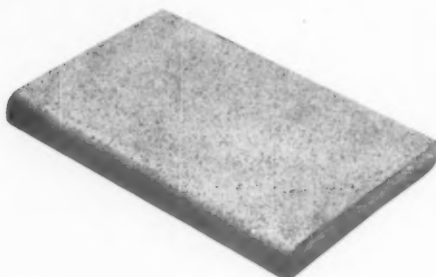
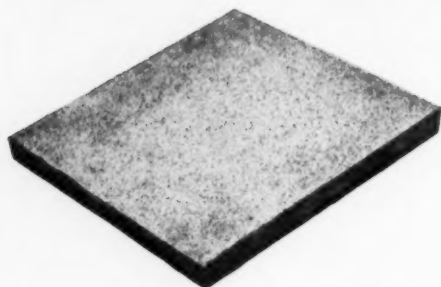
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THE CENTRAL LAND BOARD

The Central Land Board has published its Annual Report for 1949-50; this is the first complete year of working and covers, of course, the period allotted for the presentation of claims for depreciation, which ended on June 30, 1949.

By that date, 935,000 claims for a share in the £300 millions, set aside under the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, had been received. It is also interesting to note that applications to assess development charges received during the year reached the figure of 111,340 and that 108,835 were disposed of by the Board. Fifty-five per cent of these were found to be exempt or attracted no (a "nil") charge. On the financial side, £2,084,616 has been collected as development charges in 16,511 cases; owners availing themselves of the "setting-off" facilities numbered 6,454 and the sum involved was £1,179,506 during the year. The total number under this heading since the Act came into force is 10,298 (£1,911,023).

The Board point out that thousands of the claims in respect of dwellings clearly fell within the provisions of Section 63 of the Act, which rules out small claims. In order, however, to avoid any impression that the Board wished to exclude anyone from a right to share in the £300 millions, the Board have sent out 138,000 requests for further information on such claims; where it appeared justified and on this second review, the claims went forward in the usual way, but many small claims were thus eliminated.

We must refer readers to the Report for further figures and comparative statistics; we have quoted enough to show that wheels are turning and the machine is ticking over. Since it started up, a number of "reliefs" or clarifications of betterment and compensation have been made. For example, Local Authority land is exempt from development charges, except in certain circumstances, which may be broadly summed up as commercial and industrial use; with a firm basis of valuation for educational pur-

poses, where land is valued as for the erection of houses; public open spaces, one quarter of the same value, and so on. Although there are still some differences of opinion, in certain categories, between the Local Authorities and the Board, the former will welcome the stabilising of the situation and housing developments should be assisted.

Further "easements" have been agreed in connection with cleared, war-damaged sites in urban areas. Where these are only in temporary use (5 years) or used as surface land (car parks or gardens) pending full development, no development charge accrues; the conversion of a single house or a single shop into two similar units by vertical divisions and the conversion of two flats into one also does not now attract development charge.

It is probably too early to form any sweeping conclusions on the operation of compulsory purchase orders. Only 15 orders have been made by the Board out of a total of about 1,200 applications from various individuals. The Board say that "a very large proportion of these applications were, in their view, unsuitable for the exercise of their powers." One case is given to "illustrate the procedure" and this seems to show that after this particular order had been made the cost of the land to the purchaser was just over one-third less than originally demanded by the vendor (£300)—including the amount of the development charge.

The Report emphasises that when a District Valuer gives informal advice on a development charge or negotiates with a developer before giving a formal determination, his calculation of charge must be subject to variation if new facts emerge. This must, the Board say, be regarded as a process of investigating the merits of a case rather than mere bargaining.

It will be recalled, from the first Report (August, 1949) the Board said that the market in development

land would be closely watched, because it was the Board's concern that prospective developers, who have to pay development charges, should not be penalised. In the present Report the Board express a belief that there is still a large number of transactions at prices much in excess of "existing use values"; certain ways are suggested in which the Board can help owners or purchasers with advice.

There would seem, however, in all this new procedure, a certain indication that the Board have a many a hard and long row to hoe and that there may be some substance in the criticism that the time-lag involved in inquiry, investigation, and determination, apart altogether from the financial aspects, may be imposing a "dead-hand" on development in a number of places, if only by the negative results of people doing nothing and waiting to see. In the long run, of course, some of this delay may be a good thing, but there must be many cases where development is held

over, perhaps indefinitely, either as a deliberate policy, financial or otherwise, or because of a sort of inherent pig-headedness on the part of some owners or developers.

* Hesitations and doubts can be much eased by the employment of professional advisers to assist owners in their negotiations with the Board (the Report says that about a quarter of the claims have had the assistance of such advice). It is, therefore, important to note that the Board are authorised to make contributions towards fees incurred by claimants who employ professional advisers; these contributions are paid at the completion of negotiations. Nothing, we note, is said as to the type of adviser considered qualified or suitable, or what limit is set to contributions towards fees.

By and large, however, we are glad to record that we think this Report is rather more "human" than some received from Government Departments.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

THE COMMERCIAL MOTOR SHOW

RETURNING to Earl's Court after a long absence was like going back to school; I had the same sinking feeling in the pit of the stomach. I knew that within five minutes I should be lost; be unable to find the escalator to the first floor and, inevitably, come out at the wrong place when I left. The Commercial Motor Show has one very important advantage over other exhibitions; it is the exhibits which count and not the presentation. In the main hall the stands consisted of floors of one sort or another bearing the gleaming monsters, or midgets which will run us down to-morrow. The spaces in between were, it is true,

sometimes strewn with leather arm chairs in which tired demonstrators could be seen gathering their frayed nerve fibres for another assault on potential buyers, while overhead hung fruity velvet trimmed mauve banners reminiscent of those carried by Friendly Societies at open air drumhead services.

Many firms are now producing chassis with engines either under the floor amidships, or in the stern. Amidships the engine lies on its side while in the stern it sits upright but sideways on. Both these arrangements provide a very neat layout and should make the body-builders' job easier. As a nation we have been slow to introduce the metal framed body on passenger carrying commercial vehicles, but, possibly because of the demands of the export business, there were many such bodies in the exhibition.

Although there were still some "streamlined" horrors and indeed there was one more horrible than I have ever seen before, the standard of design both internal and external has improved. The long scimitar of shiny metal along the side, and the backward leaning mullions appear to be on their way out. In their place there are straight lines but still too much brightwork. Inside, some manufacturers have abandoned the carpet-on-the-ceiling technique, others have not. Many moquette seat coverings are still hideous.

Among the goods and specialised exhibits there was a new seven-ton truck which was loudly advertised as being in the thirty mile an hour class. In view of the present performance of trucks in the 20 m.p.h. class I take this to mean that it will customarily be driven at sixty.

On the first floor there was a sea of component manufacturers. I was left wondering where the main manufacturer came in, except as an assembly line operator. The vast majority of the stands were devoid of inhibitions on exhibition design, although here and there someone had had an idea. The post-war advances in stand design were dimly reflected in the work of some stand fitter-designers, usually with unfortunate results. One die-hard firm had erected a Tudor cottage complete with bottle glass and painted-on plaster cracks. In such a large area of cream



"I said the acoustics are wizard"

(The Editor does not necessarily agree with views expressed by contributors)



On September 27, at the R.I.B.A., the Rt. Hon. Aneurin Bevan, Minister of Health, presented medals and diplomas to the architects of the best designed local authority urban and rural post-war housing estates. Similar diplomas were presented to the local authorities concerned. The photograph above is of Billington Estate awarded one of the medals in the North-Western Region. The designers are the Grenfell Baines Group, architects to Blackburn R.D.C.

building board it was quite refreshing but whether it actively assisted in selling springs is another matter.

THE FESTIVAL

AS a keen supporter of the South Bank Exhibition I now feel better equipped to talk about it for I have visited the site. I was most impressed. The dome came well up to my expectations although its apparent height is rather less than I had hoped. Most of the buildings look far from temporary and the administration building is very nearly the largest of the lot. I was surprised at the size of the open spaces which will be available. It is comforting to know that most of the lavatories are already finished. Wells Coates' television building is due to be handed over this week. It is quite safe to predict that the architecture is going to be varied, interesting and in some instances outstanding. Everything will now depend on the gardening of the landscapists and the tale-telling of the display boys. I hope very much that the latter will give the exhibits a chance.

The vast bulk of the Royal Festival Hall tends to make the other works look like pygmy scratchings. I understand that the organisation of this job has been truly remarkable. It is certainly a very considerable achievement to have done so much in such a short time.

I am wondering whether Mr Herbert Morrison has got his eye on Battersea Park as the eventual home of London's permanent pleasure garden. Some weeks ago I mentioned that he had been much impressed with Scandinavian examples. At the same time he was reported as having said that at the end of the

Festival, Battersea Park must be handed back to the L.C.C. Now I see a report that he has said that the pleasure gardens would remain open after the closing of the South Bank Exhibition.

Apparently he thinks that there will be a great public agitation for the gardens to become permanent. If this is an indirect way of saying that his mind is already made up I trust that the designers were told that their buildings might have to stand for longer than six months.

The organ for the Festival Hall will not be ready until 1953. It is to be, as anyone might guess, a good one. This fact is well rubbed in, with minute details of the sort and number of stops, couplers, pistons and so on, in a press notice issued with full organ by the L.C.C. The music of the organ will be, we are told, "pleasant rather than prodigious."

THE COST OF HOUSING

THE Builder announces a competition for low cost housing. The idea is that at present houses to M.o.H. standards cost too much to build, and demand rents beyond the reach of many people. The Builder sees no prospect of reducing building costs at present, and holds the Government largely responsible for this. Whether it is right in so doing I do not know but I entirely agree that the only practical way to reduce the cost of houses is to build smaller ones with less expensive equipment. I have no doubt at all that some one will say that it will not be quicker or cheaper to build smaller and simpler houses. Let us try it and see. In a mild way I have been saying this for some time. The Builder has taken the bull by the

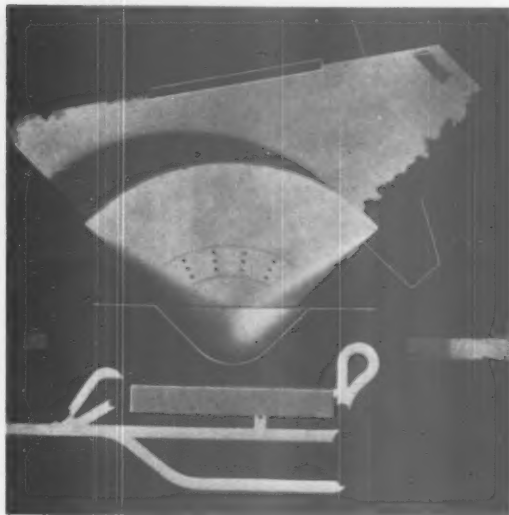
horns and is to promote a most interesting competition which should make all the theorists pull up their pencils and sharpen their socks. Full particulars will be available soon. Anyone on the A.R.C.U.K. register may enter.

THE PUBLIC HOUSE AGAIN

"A MONTHLY Bulletin" which I have quoted from time to time quotes me this month. In a well balanced article on Design and the Public House it supports the between-the-wars activities of the Brewers against the rudeness of the architectural critics. It does this in an entirely reasonable way and points out that the Victorian pub, now so popular, was derided in the 'twenties. It is suggested that if the journalists live long enough they may come to praise the pubs of the 'thirties. This is a sobering thought. The writer of the article quotes my appreciative remarks about Messrs. Courage and balances them against some hard words previously written about brewers' design in general. Here are two extracts from the article. "Much depends too upon the guidance given by the architectural press, which might exert a greater influence if it looked forward rather than backwards" and "Some brewers' architects, in striving to achieve an impression of dignity, seem to have forgotten that a public house is above all a place of refreshment and entertainment."

BETTER FIRE STATIONS

JUDGING by a paragraph in *The Times* last week architects may in due course expect a spate of commissions to design fire stations. Many existing stations, according to the Second Report of the Chief Inspector of Fire Services for England and Wales, are so unsuitable as to require replacement. Little money seems to be available for improvement at present but unless something is done operational efficiency may suffer. As a nation we should probably not care to be judged by our fire station architecture, although much of it is the result of competitions. While they wait patiently for improved premises and brass poles to slide down members of the fire service could do worse than read a recently published book entitled "Building Construction for Firemen" which might encourage them to help themselves on this important question.



Model, seen from above, of a projected theatre at Buenos Aires. The long rectangular block towards the bottom of the picture is the administration building. Other pictures on opposite page.

THE ROADS OF FRANCE

I HAVE received a little book with the above title written by A. G. Douglas Cleese, Associate Editor of *The Autocar*. Mr. Cleese is in the fortunate position of being one who seems to have spent a great deal of his life touring France. The book consists mainly of detailed directions on how to get from A to B with general notes on continental travel for the motorist. The style is breezy and readable but the general production is rather thin. If you can resist planning a French tour for next year after reading this book you will be stronger minded than I.

ABNER

NEWS OF THE WEEK

THE number of permanent houses completed during the month of August was 14,945, compared with 17,013 in July.

★

Work has begun on the Festival of Britain buildings which will form part of the 1951 exhibition in the L.C.C. Lansbury neighbourhood at Poplar.

★

For making unauthorised use of the term "Architects" on their advertisements, and letter headings, two partners trading as the "20th Century Estates" of 36 Foleshill Road, Coventry, were each fined £20 with £5 costs at Coventry on Monday last.

Albert de Marco, an Italian, of 163 Lavender Avenue, Coventry, and Sidney J. Lees, of 103 Redesdale Avenue, Coventry, both pleaded guilty to using the term "Architects" while not being registered under the Architects' Registration Act 1931.

Mr. Ian R. Fleming-Williams of Godalming, and Mr. Colin E. McWilliam of London, have been awarded scholarships for four months study of Architecture in Italy, and Mr. Eric J. Corker has been awarded a scholarship for 9 months study of Architecture in Stockholm.

They are three of the candidates selected by the British Council for Scholarships awarded by (13) foreign countries to reciprocate those awarded by the British Council to foreign university graduates to enable them to study in the U.K.

★

The winners in the Competition held by the Buckinghamshire Society of Architects were as follows: Measured Drawings—1st F. C. Ashby, 2nd D. C. Turner, Commended A. M. Milton. Sketching—1st A. R. Good, 2nd Jill Hassell. The Students' Classes which have been held at High Wycombe have now stopped as the High Wycombe

Technical School has arranged evening classes of a similar nature. Application for same should be made to W. J. Davies, Esq., Principal, High Wycombe College of Further Education, Easton Street, High Wycombe.

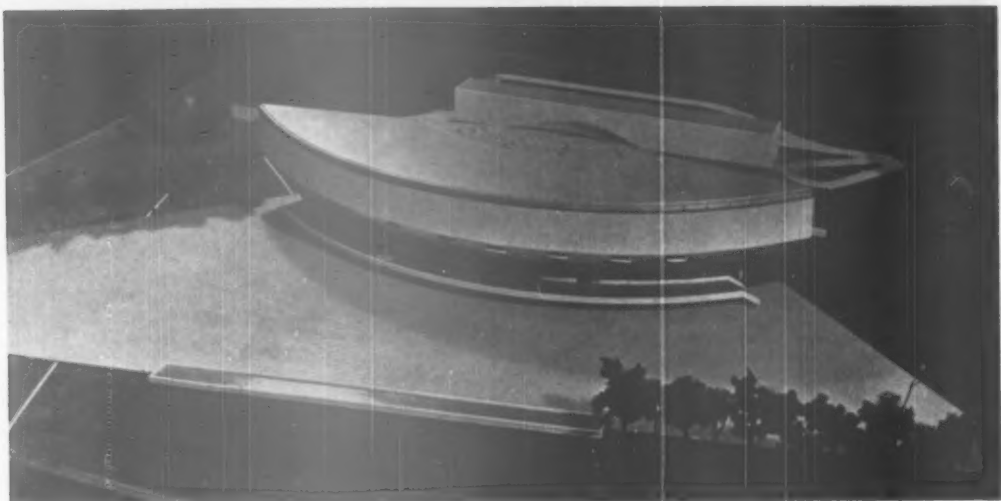
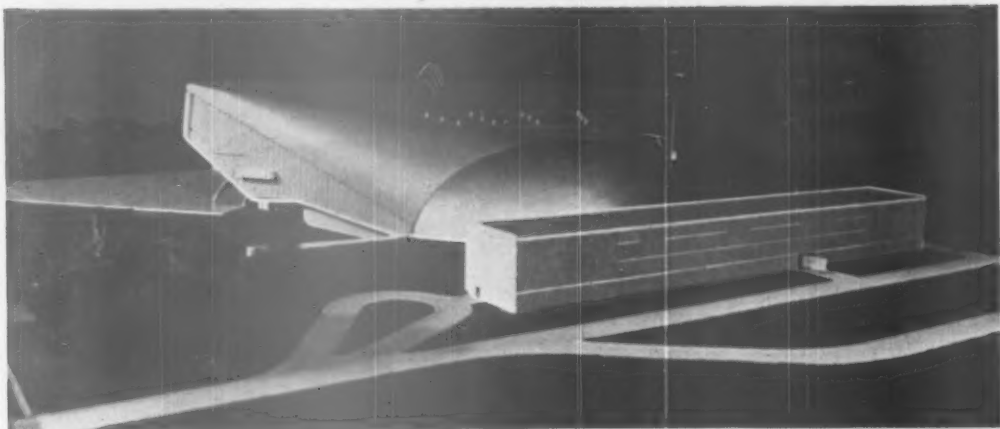
PARTNERSHIP

Messrs. J. Stanley Beard, Bennett & Wilkins have taken into partnership Mr. R. D. Knott, L.R.I.B.A., and Mr. J. R. Royce, A.R.I.B.A. The practice will be continued under the same name as hitherto.

APPOINTMENTS

The recommendation of the General Finance Committee of Glasgow Corporation that M. A. G. Jury, F.R.I.B.A., at present housing director, should be appointed to the new position of City Architect and Planning Officer, has not been accepted by the Corporation. The matter has been remitted for further consideration.

The reason put forward for this



The photographs on this page are of the model for a theatre in Buenos Aires. The architects for this project are Messrs. Catalano, Nery, Grego, Gandolfi, Degiorgi and Lanus. We wish the authors of this design better luck than Frank Lloyd Wright, whose proposed theatre in light metal has been rejected by West Hartford, Connecticut, a decision which provoked from Mr. Wright, "This is a disgrace and it will go on record as an indictment of this region of the United States."





Photo: Sound Stills Ltd.

ADDISCOMBE METHODIST CHURCH

ARCHITECTS: SCHERRER & HICKS, M.A., FF.R.I.B.A.

The original church, school hall and vestries, built in 1881, were destroyed by fire in January, 1948. This view shows the interior of the new church to seat 200 people, which has been built on the site of the old school hall, together with certain adjoining vestries. Assistant-in-charge: D. W. Aitken, A.R.I.B.A. Decorations above communion table supervised by H. S. Hatcher, A.R.C.A.

action was that for a post of this magnitude, a public advertisement should be made to test the market. The post is to carry a salary of £2,000 per annum rising to £2,500.

Robert Allan, A.R.I.B.A., DIP.ARCH. (Glasgow), of Dumfries, has been appointed Deputy County Planning Officer of Ayrshire.

COMING EVENTS**L.M.B.A.**

- October 11, at 1 p.m. At Derry & Toms Restaurant, Kensington High Street, W.8. Luncheon and 91st General Meeting of Central Area No. 1.

L.C.C.

- October 10, at 7 p.m. At the Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, E.2. "The 18th Century—Taste Rational and Irrational." Speaker: John Summer-son.

Institution of Structural Engineers

- October 12, at 6 p.m. Presidential Address. Speaker: J. E. Swindlehurst.

Housing Centre

- October 10, at 1.15 p.m. "Sub-letting—Some Points of View." Speaker: E. C. Clay.

EXHIBITION

An exhibition of students' work, organised by Oxford Architectural Students' Society will be held at Blackhall, St. Giles, Oxford, from October 12—22 inclusive, 10 a.m.—5.30 p.m.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—As architects and town planners we are engaged on the rebuilding of our devastated cities, and are helping to create the material necessities for a better life in Britain and the Commonwealth. Yet before our work is half begun the threat of another world war is upon us.

We believe this war can be averted, and many statesmen are working to find a solution. But the possibility of atomic war remains a horrifying nightmare to all humanity.

When it is realised that blindness and the birth of mentally and physically deformed children in future generations are only two of the known effects of the atom bomb, it is obvious that it must not be used under any circumstances whatsoever.

It is for this reason that we appeal to our colleagues to join with us in signing the British Peace Committee's petition to the House of Commons, which aims simply and solely at bringing about the outlawing of atomic weapons by all countries, and the organisation of international control and inspection.

These two objectives cannot, of course, guarantee peace for the world: they leave aside issues on which world-wide agreement seems at present impossible, and concentrate on the use of atomic weapons, weapons not only utterly inhuman but whose use can be only

offensive. To us they seem at least a practical first step to peace.

Many people are afraid of being considered Communist if they support the petition; because Communists are supporting it. On this issue, the rightness of which we feel is undeniable, we are prepared to join with all those of good will, whatever their political outlook, in this common plea. The very diversity of our political views is evidence that wide agreement is possible on these limited objectives, and the wider the support from people of all opinions, the greater the petition's chance of success.

It is the duty of each one of us to use this ancient and democratic medium of a Petition to Parliament to make our deep anxiety known.

We are, etc.,

BERTRAM CARTER, F.R.I.B.A.

ANTHONY COX, A.R.I.B.A.

SUSAN COX, A.R.I.B.A.

LEO DE SYLLAS, A.R.I.B.A.

JANE DREW, F.R.I.B.A.

MAXWELL FRY, F.R.I.B.A.

D. E. E. GIBSON, M.A., A.R.I.B.A.,

A.M.T.P.I.

ERNO GOLDFINGER, D.P.L.G.,

L.R.I.B.A.

H. J. WHITFIELD LEWIS, A.R.I.B.A.

BERTHOLD LUBETKIN

PAUL V. MAUGER, F.R.I.B.A.,

M.T.P.I.

JOHN PINCKHEARD, A.R.I.B.A.



Vienna from the Belvedere Gardens



Josef Platz. The Hofburg

VIENNA REVISITED

THERE must be a number of people almost as ignorant as myself, who thought of Vienna in phrases such as "not a city but a philosophy," "brilliant diplomatic gatherings" and labelled "Mozart, Schubert and Strauss Waltzes." I went there in 1947, not knowing what to expect, with a mind entirely blank where anything Baroque was concerned, except for a rather orthodox disapproval. My knowledge of Viennese history was limited to the defeat of the Turks in 1683. After a visit of ten days, Vienna meant Schönbrunn palace, a café in the Wienerwald (one of the few, uncrowded at the week-end) and the edge of the Danube which was not blue and rather disappointing. Even so, I left enthusiastically convinced that, until you have been to Vienna, you have not seen architecture and applied art in their proper relationship to one another. At the first opportunity, in June of this year, I returned.

If you are fortunate enough to approach Vienna by air, you can see the hills of the Vienna woods forming almost a horseshoe, with the Danube closing the opening. The city lies flatly in the middle, encroaching on the woods here and there through a fringe of villages and week-end suburbs. Across the river it looks to Slovakia and Hungary over a seemingly endless plain. If there is a thunder sky, you may notice the spire of St. Stephen's cathedral standing out black as the aircraft swings round and beyond it, in the Prater, the Great Wheel. You arrive on a rather derelict airfield, go through an enormous hangar and past a small

Customs counter to the airline bus, a British soldier with a Tommy-gun mounts the step, and you drive into the city. Half-an-hour later, you are on the Schubertring, lined with heavy chestnut trees and flanked by massive, bank-type buildings. Red and yellow trams knot themselves together at street junctions, then twist away under the trees. Your first step should be to buy a book-map of the town. The Viennese are unfailingly interested and courteous but their sense of time in relation to distance is unreliable.

Vienna, from a Celtic settlement, became a fortified garrison on the edge of the Roman Empire. Throughout the Medieval and Renaissance periods, she was not only a trade centre at the crossing of the Amber or Venice road and the east-west highway of the Danube, but a bastion against the Turks until, in 1683, that pressure was removed. A great building episode followed, mainly within the limits of the Medieval fortifications, and simultaneously Vienna became identified with the Habsburg family and the Counter-Reformation. In 1860, another building boom began which transformed the city walls into the present-day Ring. (Outside the walls was the Glacis—a ring of fields—but it was not until after the first world war that blocks of flats were built around its outer edge to make the Gurtel). Although it is the conception of a bastion which underlies her history and the Medieval plan which dominates the city, her reputation is largely based on that period of master architects and exuberant craftsmen which followed the defeat of the Turks. If, as I believe is the

case, many of the craftsmen were imported from Italy, they appear to have gained in vitality from the move. Now, she is again an outpost on the dividing line between two civilisations. Only a Mongolian-looking sentry at the blank door of the Grand Hotel reminds the casual visitor, and the regular appearance of the Four-Powered jeep.

Time was too short to sight-see. It would be logical to start with the Inner Town, at the 12th-century church in the original Jewish quarter, and work outwards through the successive date-rings, leaving plenty of time to hear opera and concerts and to visit the Albertina; its collection of Rembrandt etchings alone is an adequate reason for visiting Vienna. One should not miss the National Library in the Hofburg. Baroque architects were fascinated by a sense of interior volume; as compared with Renaissance builders, they seem to have designed in the round rather than in the square and even their plans do not so much enclose space as fill what is there. The Hofburg lies actually within a triangle and the site of the Scharzenberg and Belvedere palaces is restricted in the same way, yet the effect of space and formality is striking. The library is a fine example of interior decoration used to emphasise this essential Baroque conception—so fine, that it is easy to overlook the plasterwork on the staircase ceiling outside. It is rather simple and unobtrusive but typical of the fine detail which appears unexpectedly on the shabbiest doors and most extravagant façades all over Vienna. The Hofburg library



The Karntnerstrasse

should be compared with that at Melk Abbey (an hour or two by car from Vienna), smaller and finished entirely in inlaid woods. It is possible to obtain a pass to go through the Russian zone towards Salzburg, passing Melk on the way. Once at the Hofburg, it is natural to go into the Graben—Bond Street standard—and drift towards the Cathedral, looking at the bookshops, until at the back of the Stephansplatz you find a small passage leading to a courtyard. Part is shielded by grey striped awning and wire trellis and there are white tables and a vine. This is the Deutchehaus café, a suitable place to discuss whether to go up the spire of the Cathedral or see the Habsburg tombs. Do not do either unless you like counting steps or have a morbid interest in skeletons. Rather, go back to the Peterskirche, which is virtually hollowed out from the buildings behind the Graben, and then explore the medieval side-streets. They have all been refaced but the rather modern proportion of their windows gives them away. The Karntnerstrasse, narrower, made cavernous by scaffolding, is less expensive and has a growing number of wholly glass single shop-fronts, a fashion which demands but does not always receive a very high standard of window display. It leads back from St. Stephan to the Ring, to the Opera House and to Sacher's Hotel—a mine of information in all cases of doubt or difficulty.

It was from here that I always returned to the "villa village" near

Schönbrunn where I was staying. The initial tram would amble round to the centre of the Ring, then swerve away to the left if I had chosen the right one. Or, I might get out here and walk around the Burggarten before going on. The proportion of park and tree-space to building, in this part of Vienna, is as high as in the residential areas of London. The trees are more luxuriant and varied and there is nearly always a fountain and a good restaurant; one or two of the parks have bungalow kindergarten as well. By the paper kiosk and the red and white striped umbrella over the ice-cream woman, I would catch my final tram up the Mariahilferstrasse. This, the major stage of the journey,

watching the trotting-races, an occasion when it would have been particularly helpful to have been able to speak German. Taxi-fares have to be multiplied by 15 to arrive at the correct amount, otherwise they barely total fourpence, and it is wise to fix a rough figure in advance. On the way back, I made a detour to a street beyond the Belvedere where workmen were restoring the chipped façades and stucco mouldings in a neighbourhood of large houses. The tradition of craftsmanship in plaster-work appeared to be maintained and compared much too favourably with the rather coarse cement work of so many repaired London houses. In the greater part of Vienna, however, the houses are blocks of apartments and the heavy, wooden doors lead into well-like courtyards.

Vienna is an interesting rather than a beautiful city. The Danube is not part of the landscape and the street level is too uniform to provide those urban effects, normal in a city that has grown up over a long period of time. It is, however, essentially a place to be lived in before it can be known and a superficial impression such as this is useful only as a starting-point or as a corrective to preconceived ideas. Of her two traditional roles, it is probably wiser, under present circumscribed conditions, to choose the Vienna of artists and craftsmen and to continue and strengthen that tradition through the reconstruction of the State Opera.

ROSEMARY RENDEL.



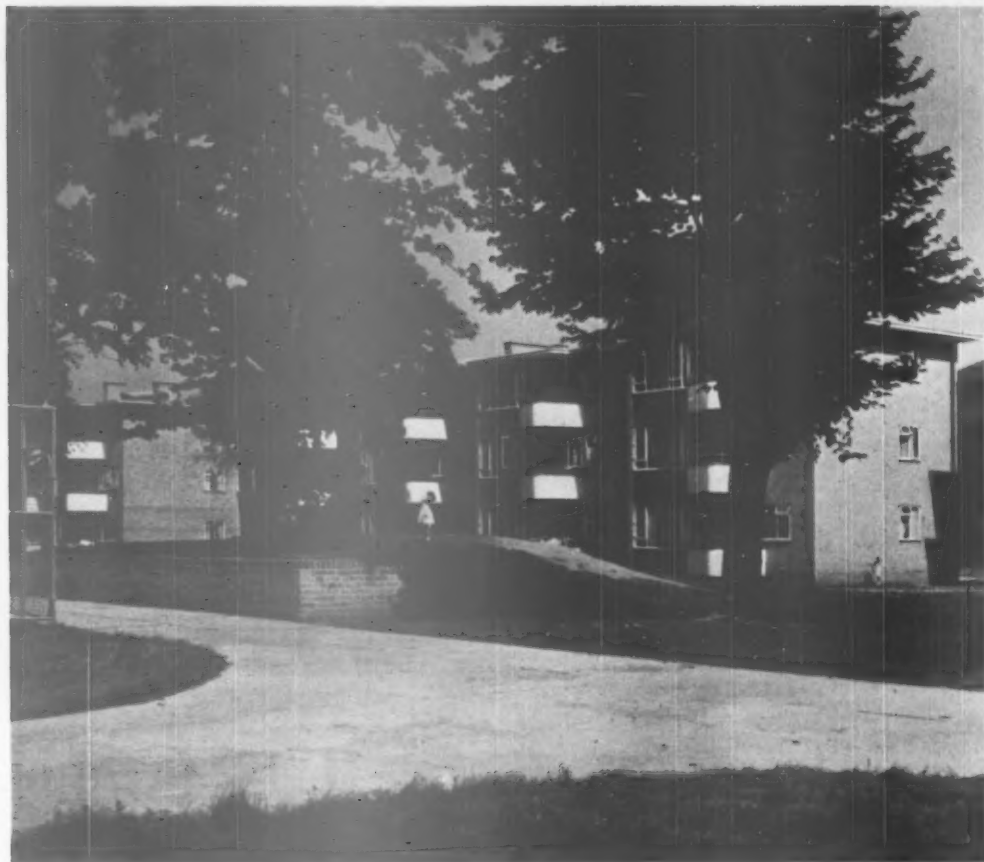
Rows of double windows

is impossibly long and unbelievably hot. It starts from the Ring in the late nineteenth century, black, rather opulent, tall and curving, supported by side-streets with that blank look typical of numberless double windows between stucco string-courses. It passes the big, post-1919 stores with their glass and bas reliefs and cuts through the grey blocks on the Gürtel. For a space it broadens into a low village street, then a dusty warehouse or two and at last, the apricot walls of Schönbrunn Palace and the brown roofs of Hietzing village.

It was to the Karntnerstrasse and the Opera House that I returned after a taxi-journey into the Prater to locate two friends who were



Vienna from the spire of the Cathedral, looking S.E.



View from S.W. of Blocks 2 & 3, showing "mound" formed from spoil heap. This treatment was cheaper than removing surplus earth, even allowing for cost of retaining wall.

WILTON ESTATE FLATS, HACKNEY

architects: NORMAN AND DAWBARN

associate-in-charge: WHITFIELD LEWIS, A.R.I.B.A.

Borough Engineer and Director of Housing Development:
G. L. A. DOWNING, O.B.E., M.I.C.E., M.I.MUN.E.

THIS new housing estate recently completed for Hackney Borough Council occupies an island site of 3.45 acres in a residential district. A density of 30 dwellings per acre was suggested by the Borough Council, wholly in flats, and as far as possible by 3-storey development.

In developing the scheme the density has been reduced to 28.7 per acre. Ninety-nine flats of from two to five rooms have been provided with accommodation in 15 two-room flats, 48 three-room flats, 33 four-room flats and 3 five-room flats.

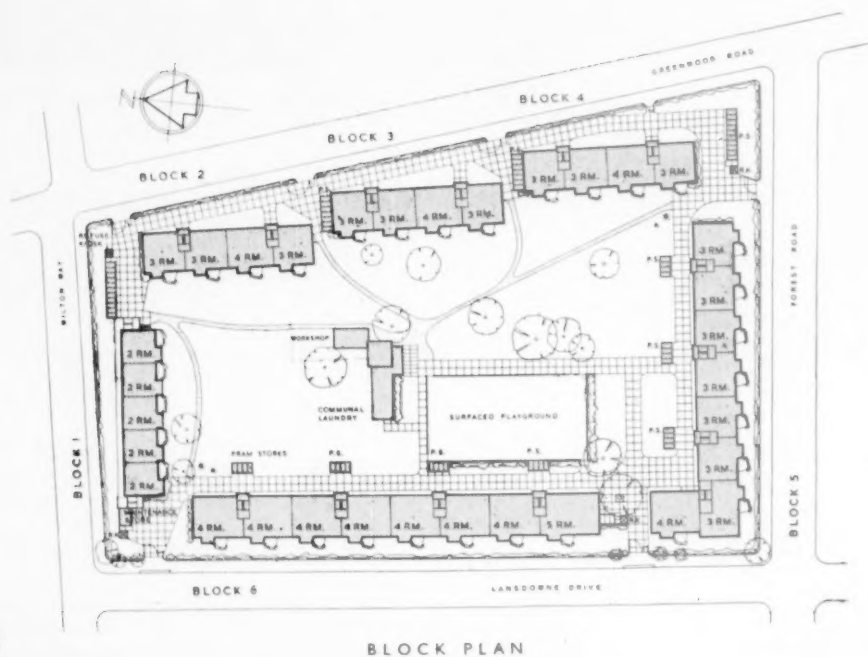
The flats are arranged in 6 blocks, five with "stair-case access" and one with gallery access. To obtain the required density and because there were a number of good trees in the centre of the site, an arrangement of blocks around the periphery was decided upon. Variety of grouping has been aimed at by staggering blocks 2, 3 and 4 which face the Greenwood Road.

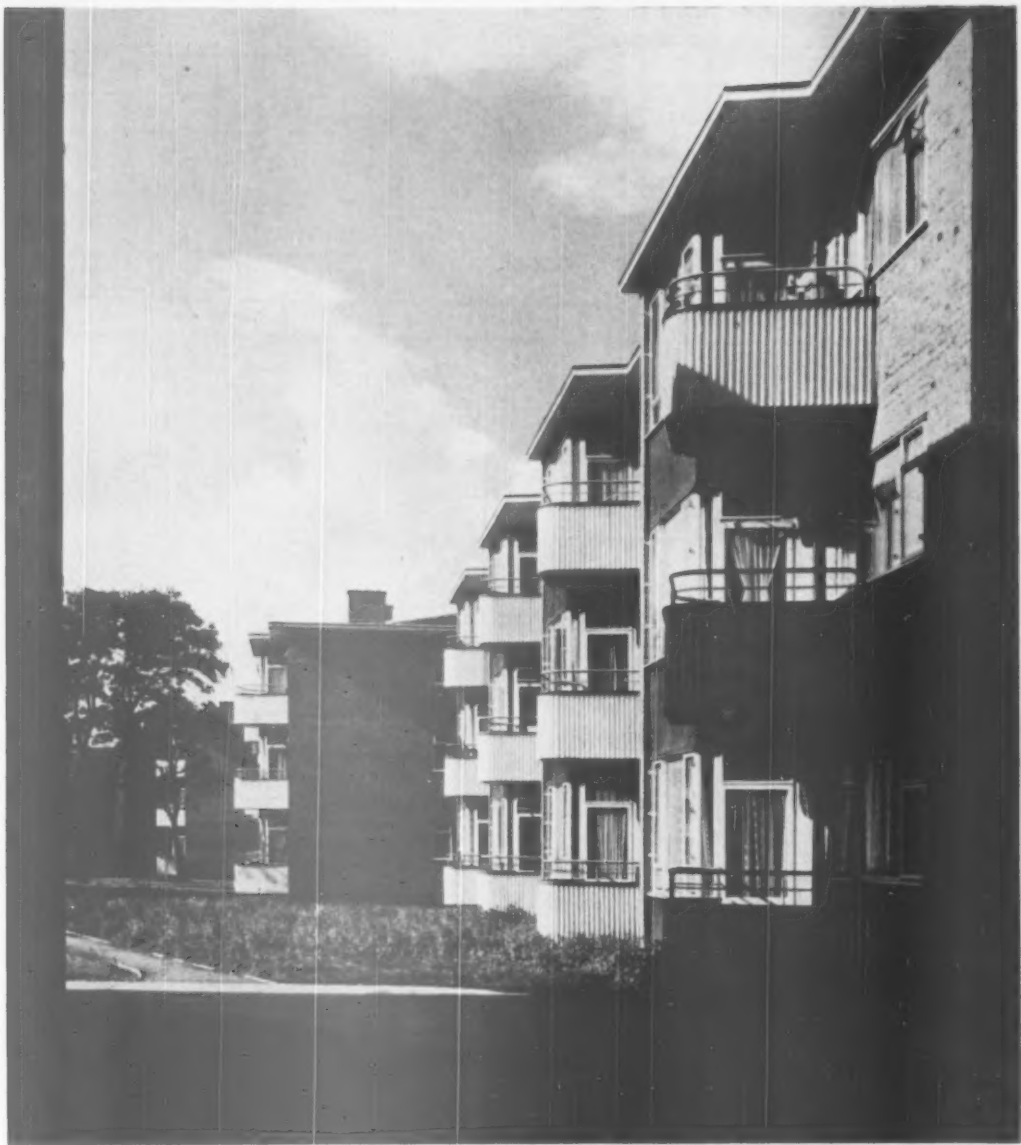
All flats have fully fitted working kitchens, and living rooms with large bay windows and private balconies facing south-west, screened on one side for privacy.

Three-, four- and five- room flats have separate w.c.



General view of "entrance" side of Blocks 2, 3 and 4 from S.E.





Blocks 2, 3 and 4 from S.W. showing orientation of all bay windows and private balconies to S.W.

and bathroom and all flats have a built-in fuel bin arranged for fuel delivery from outside and a hatch for access to the fuel from inside the flat. Living rooms have gas-ignited open fires. Open fires are also provided in the main bedrooms; this was one of the Borough Council requirements. Water heating is by electric thermal storage heaters, placed underneath draining boards in kitchens.

Sixty per cent of the flats have stores for prams and

cycles. These are generally grouped at entrances to blocks.

The Borough Council's system of refuse collection calls for isolated kiosks housing wheeled containers. These are placed in the re-entrant corners of the site, giving access to collection vehicles, without interfering with the free use of the communal garden in the central area.

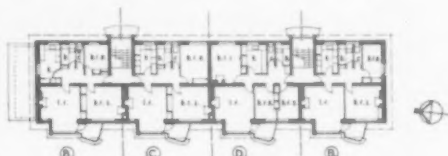
In the central area there is an enclosed paved play-

Continued in page 391

W I L T O N E S T A T E F L A T S , H A C K N E Y



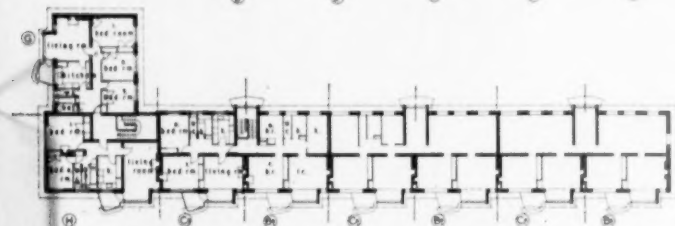
BLOCK 1



BLOCKS 2, 3 & 4



BLOCK 6



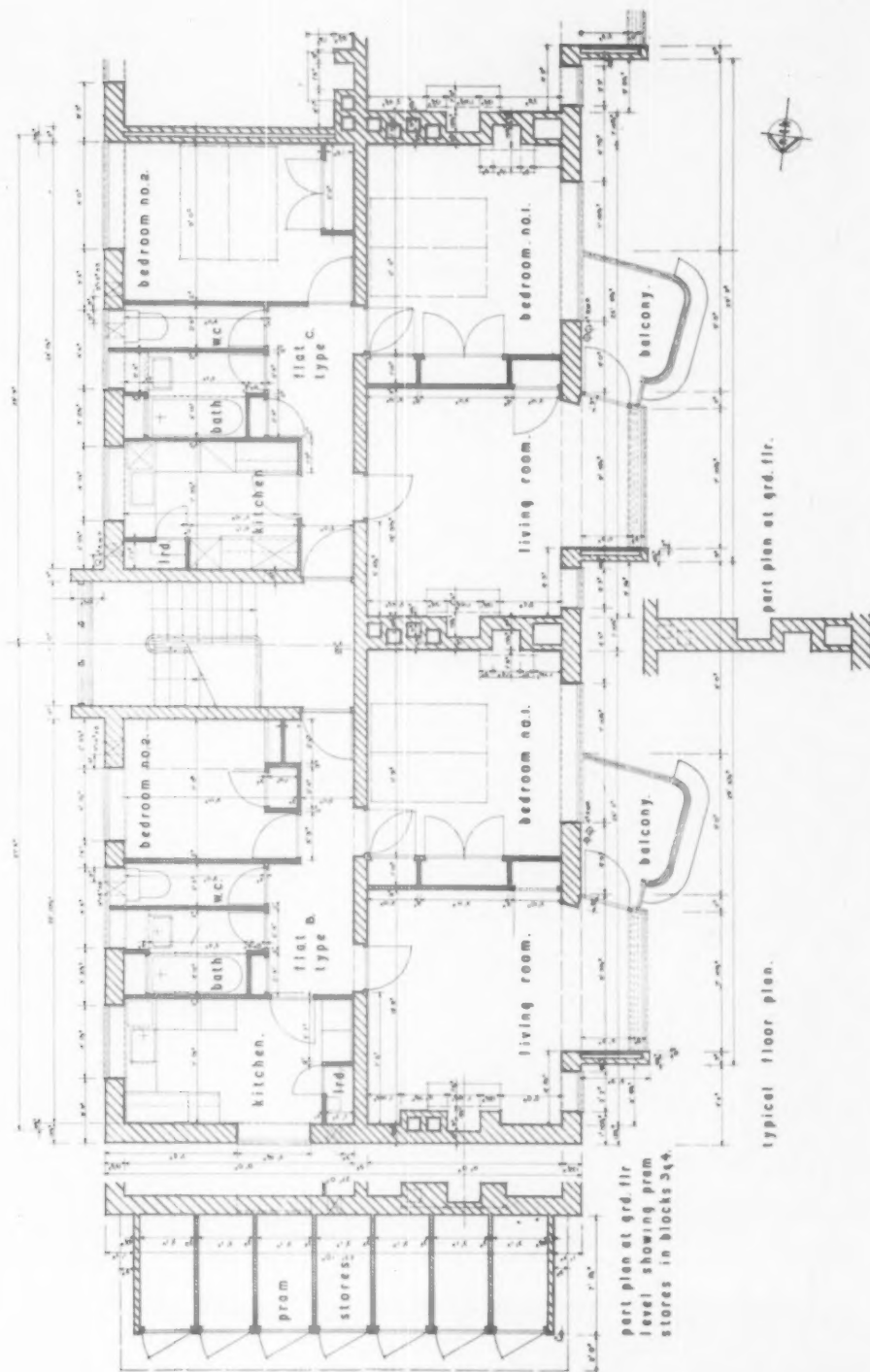
BLOCK 5

Scale 1" = 10' 0"

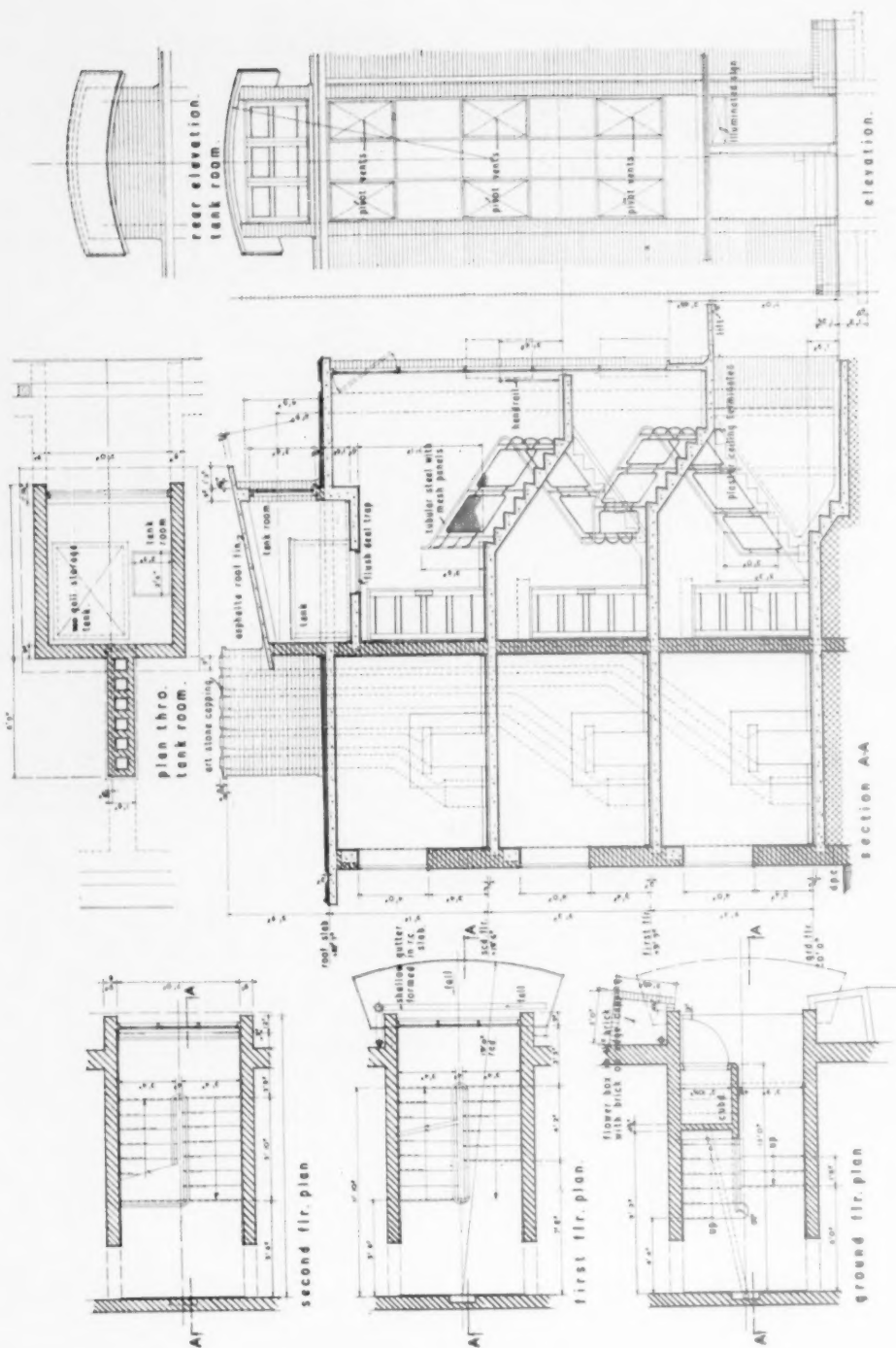
Plans of typical flats



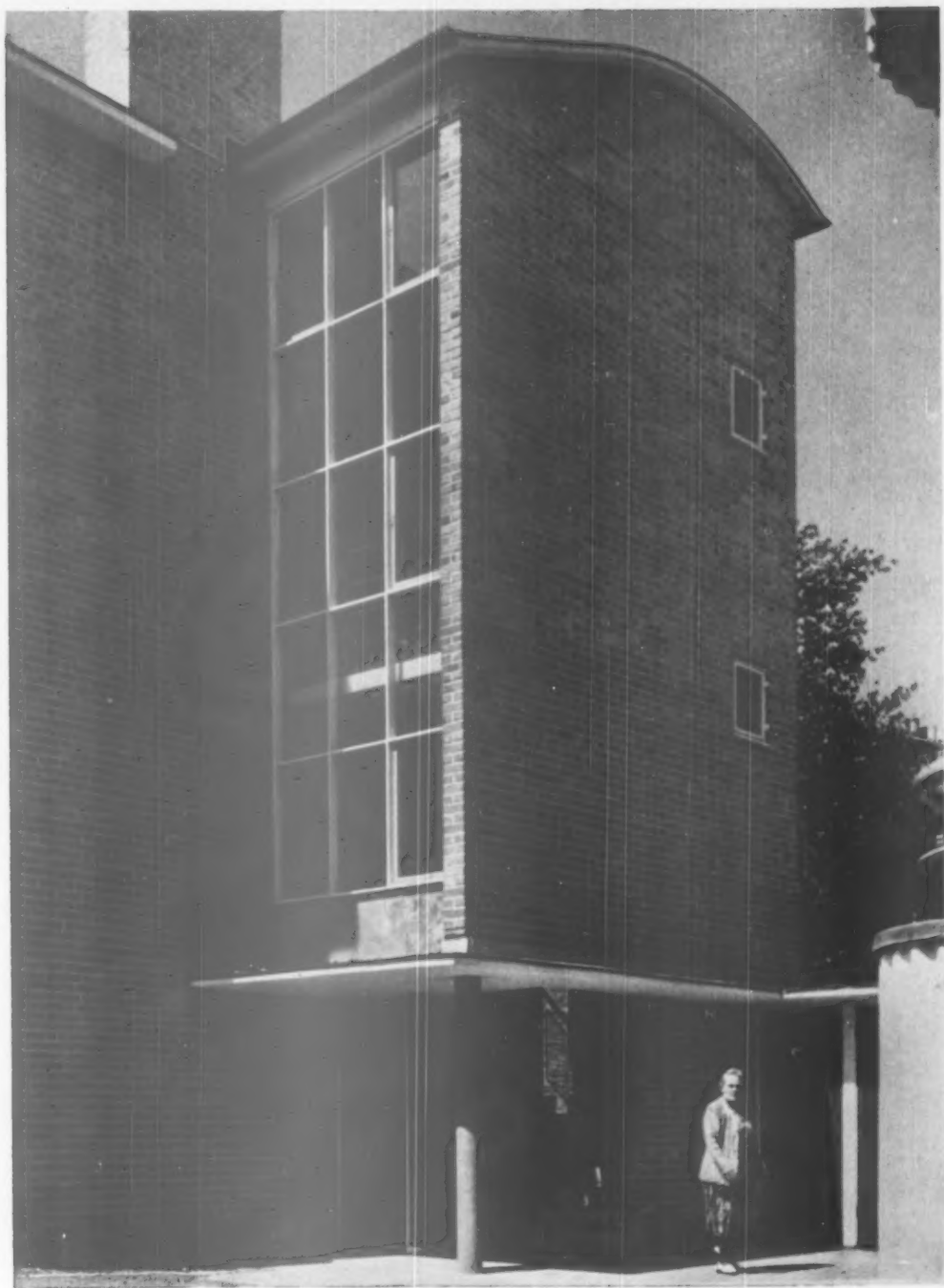
View of Block 1 from central garden



1/8th scale plans of typical "B" and "C" type flats. Wilton Estate Flats, for the Metropolitan Borough of Hackney.

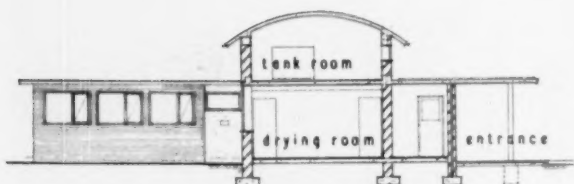
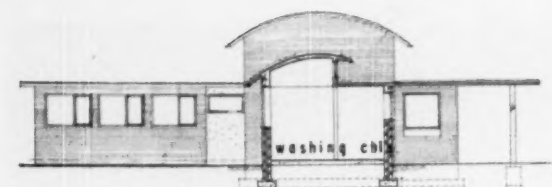


1/8th scale plans, section and elevation through typical staircase access. Architects: Norman and Dawbarn

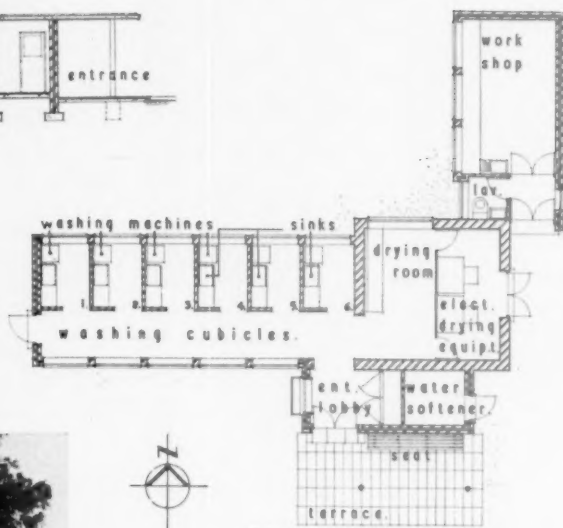


Wilton Estate Flats, Hackney : Detail of staircase to Block 1

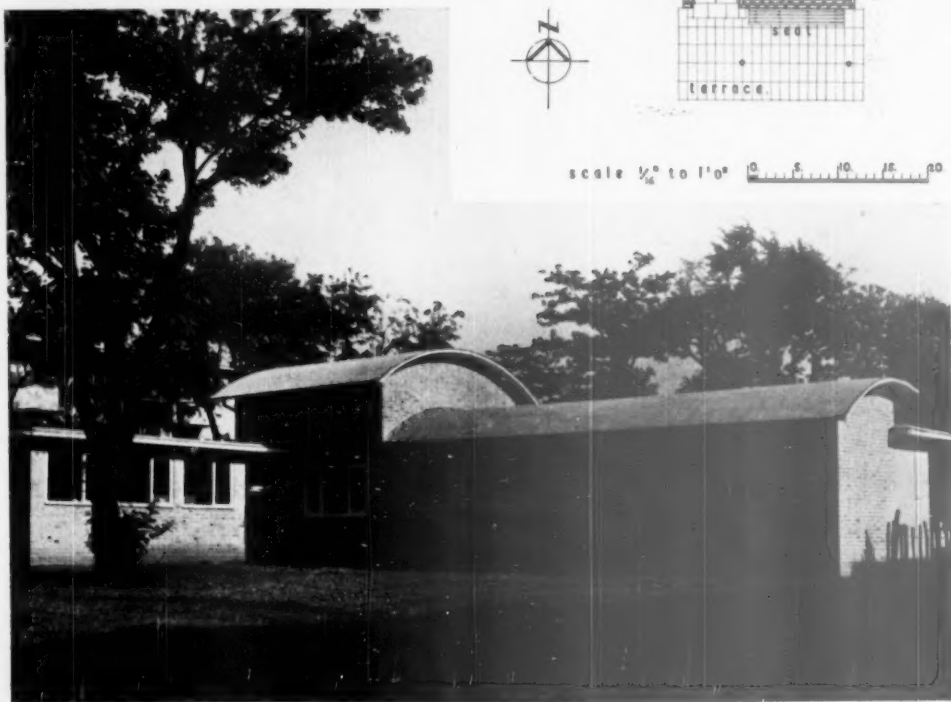
WILTON
ESTATE,
HACKNEY
LAUNDRY
AND
TENANT'S
WORKSHOP

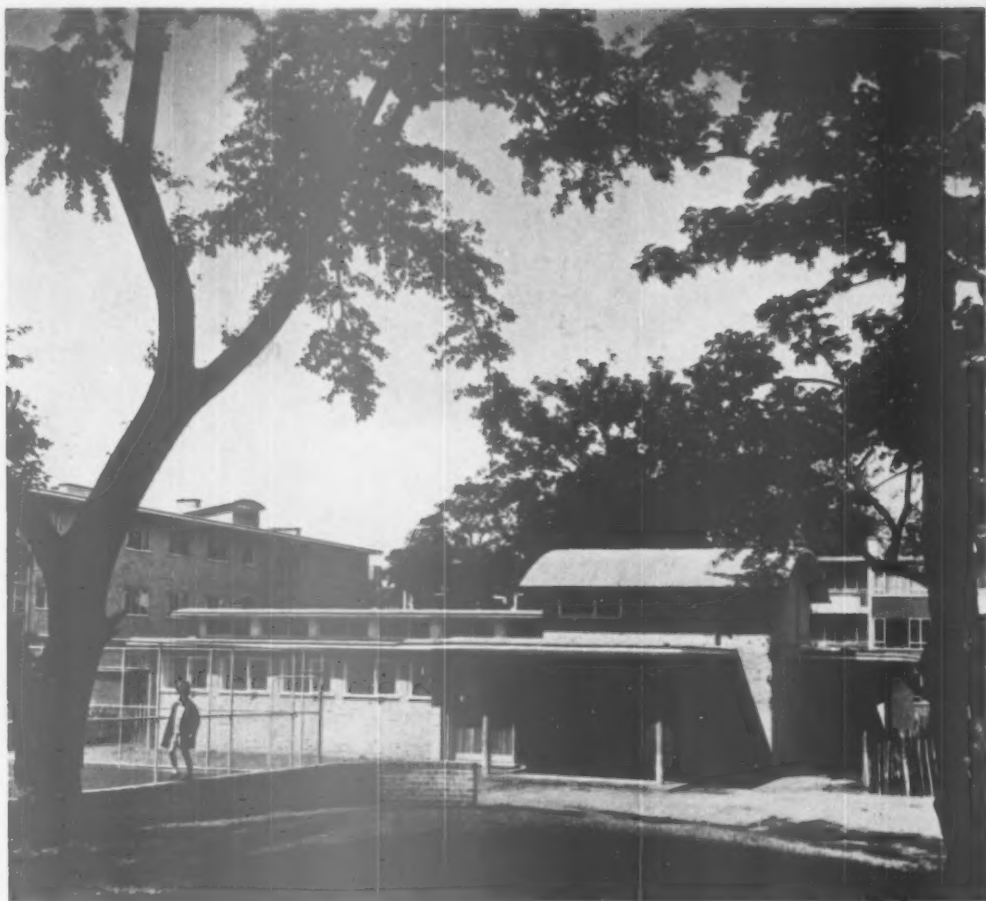


Above: Sections through washing cubicle and drying room and west elevation of workshop



Below: Laundry and tenant's workshop from north-west





Laundry and tenant's workshop from south-east

ground, and a Communal Laundry with which is incorporated a tenant's workshop.

The Communal Laundry has six cubicles, each fitted with washing machine and power operated wringer combined, sink and draining board. Two electric "tumbler drum" dryers are provided in the adjoining drying room. Water for use in the laundry is softened. Walls are finished in glazed tiling. The tenant's workshop contains workbench, sink and power points for electric tools.

Construction

Walls: load bearing 14 in. brick externally faced with Mild Stocks; 9 in. spine and 11 in. cavity party walls in flettons; 9 in. cavity walls with 2 in. breeze inner leaf in bay window aprons rendered externally in coloured cement. Floors and roof: hollow tile slabs;

balconies and bay windows, cantilevered solid reinforced concrete. Floors are floated on a 1 in. glass silk blanket for sound insulation purposes. Roofs are covered with three-ply bituminous felt roofing. Partitions are of 2 in. breeze slabs. Windows are standard E.J.M.A. wood casements. Doors: Generally, 4-panel hung in standard pressed steel frames.

A "one pipe" soil and waste system together with water services is enclosed in easily accessible ducts in each flat. All water services are in copper.

Finishes

Ceilings: Distempered white throughout. Walls: Ivory distemper throughout. Floors: Living rooms and bedrooms, softwood strip flooring; "Accotile" elsewhere. Joinery: Doors and frames, grey gloss paint. Windows: ivory gloss paint. Fittings: grey gloss painted doors and



Detail of balconies on Block 1, showing R.C. fronts cast against corrugated steel shuttering. Coloured "Tyrolese" rendered aprons below Living Room windows express the non-structural character of cavity panel walls carried on cantilevered floor slabs.

carcasses in white gloss paint. Drainers and flap tables; untreated hardwood. Surrounds to living room fireplaces, untreated columbian pine. Tiling: White glazed tile splashbacks to sink, bath and basin. Glazed tile surround to fireplaces. Staircases: Cement cold glazed walls in two colours. Buff Terrazzo paving to treads, risers and landings. Tubular balustrade with mesh panels, finished with grey gloss paint and hand-rails in terra-cotta gloss paint.

Cost. The total contract (April 1948) amounted to £160,000. Less laundry and site works—£7,000—the amount is £153,000, which averages out at £1,545 per flat.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS: J. M. HILL & SONS LTD.

SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Bricks—Stock: The Cement Marketing Co. Ltd.

Cement Glaze Finish: Robbs Cement Enamel Finishes Ltd.

Curtain Rails: Thomas French & Sons Ltd.

Door Frames—Metal: John Thompson Beacon Windows Ltd.

Dust Shoot Hoppers: Haywards Ltd.

Flooring: Jaconello Ltd.

Flower Boxes: Turners Asbestos Cement Co. Ltd.

Glazing: Aygee Ltd.

Hollow Tile Floors: J. M. Hill & Sons Ltd.

Ironmongery: Parker, Winder & Achurch Ltd.

Kitchen Fittings: Rippers Limited.

Metalwork: Light Steelwork Co. Ltd.

Numerical Plates: The Lettering Centre.

Precast Reinforced Concrete Columns: Empire Stone Co. Ltd.

Plastering: W. J. Jones & Son (Plasterers) Ltd.

Plumbing: C. Hannaford.

Refuse Hoppers: L. G. Williams.

Roofing—Built-up Bituminous: Neuchatel Asphalt Co. Ltd.

Sanitary Fittings: J. H. Sankey & Son.

Shutters—Roller: Fireproof Shutter & Door Co.

Stoves: J. Young & Co. (Kennington) Ltd.

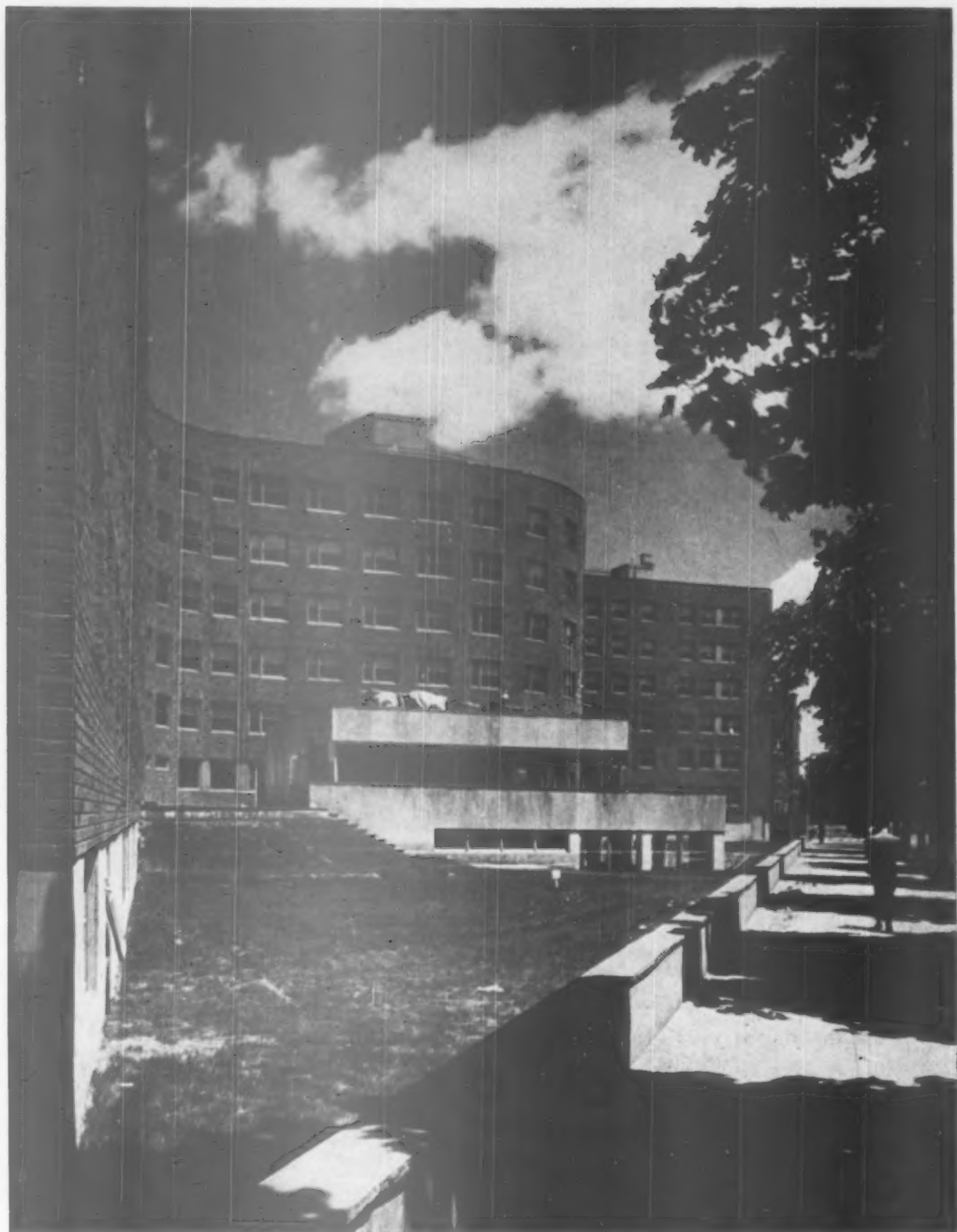
Terrazzo Pavings and Larder Shelves: The Mosaic & Terrazzo Precast

Co. (Staines) Ltd.

Tiling to Walls and Floors: Wiggins-Sankey Ltd.

Windows: John Sadd & Sons Ltd.

W I L T O N E S T A T E F L A T S , H A C K N E Y

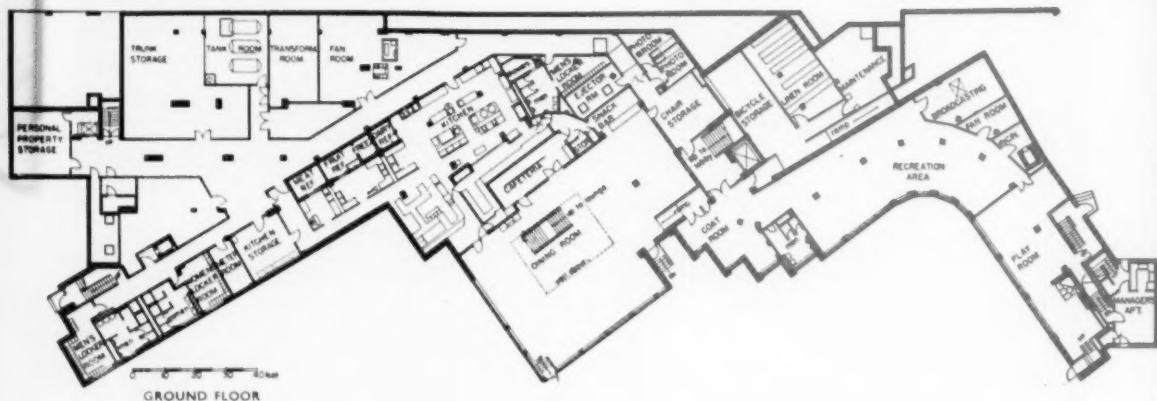
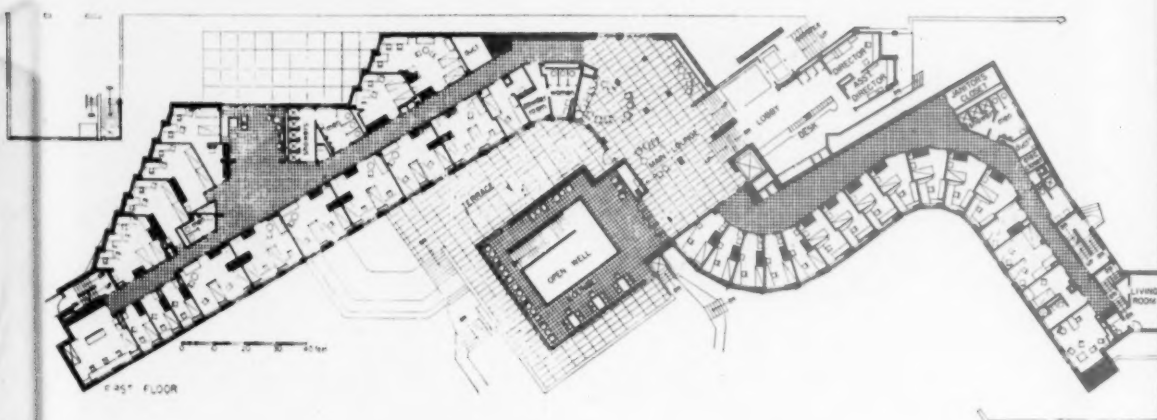


SENIOR DORMITORY

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

architects: Alvar Aalto, and Perry, Shaw and Hepburn

General view facing South

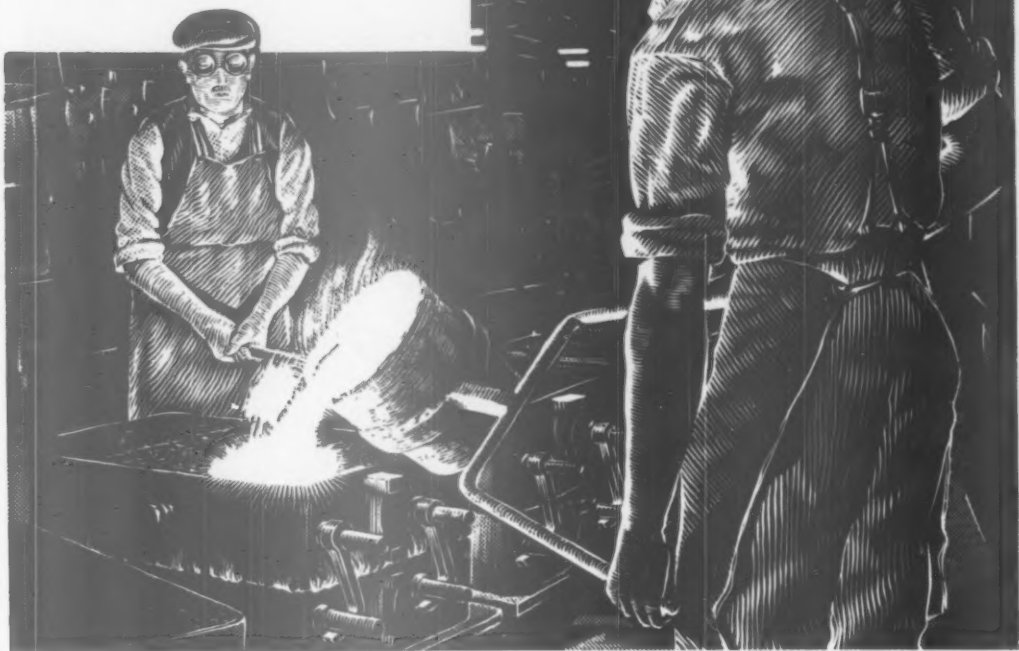


SENIOR DORMITORY:

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

architects: *Alvar Aalto, and Perry, Shaw and Hepburn*

It took 157 years



Producing modern, labour-saving domestic firegrates that economise in fuel and keep fires burning continuously, night and day, is but one of Newton Chambers' many interests. These appliances are rapidly produced in large numbers with a skill and

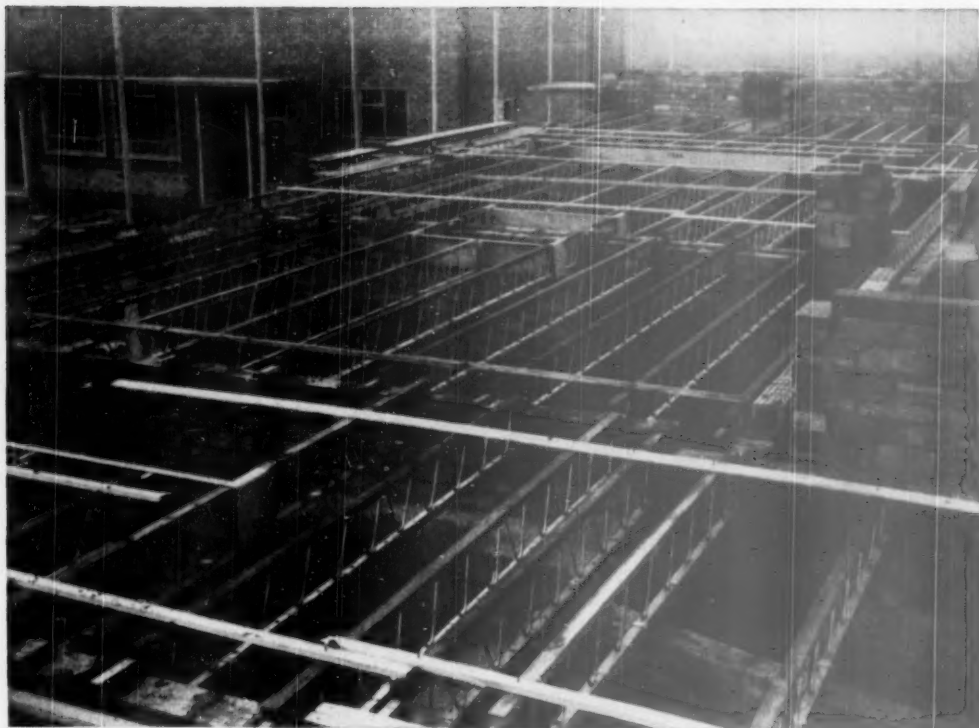


quality of workmanship acquired over seven generations in ironfounding. Newton Chambers started ironfounding in 1793 and the high standard of quality in everything they produce has been maintained from that day to this.

Newton Chambers

& COMPANY LTD., THORNCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD

IRONFOUNDERS • ENGINEERS • CHEMICAL MANUFACTURERS



Presweld construction in War Memorial village at Derby

Honorary Architect : Thos. W. East, F.R.I.B.A.

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SHORTAGE of timber is a major housing problem. The answer is ready. Hills Standard Presweld Roof Trusses and Floor Beams have become an essential part of modern building practice—specified by Architects and Builders with the approval of the Ministry of Works. In addition to saving timber for other uses, these maximum-strength, minimum-weight components can be assembled and erected by semi-skilled operatives, thus saving time and labour on site. Reasonable delivery can be given on Standard Roof Trusses and Floor Beams ordered now. Full details on request.

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ALBION ROAD, WEST BROMWICH & 125 HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1
Branches at Birmingham, Swansea, Bristol, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Glasgow

DORMITORY BLOCK FOR MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

architect:

ALVAR AALTO

in association with

Perry, Shaw and

Hepburn



Main Lounge

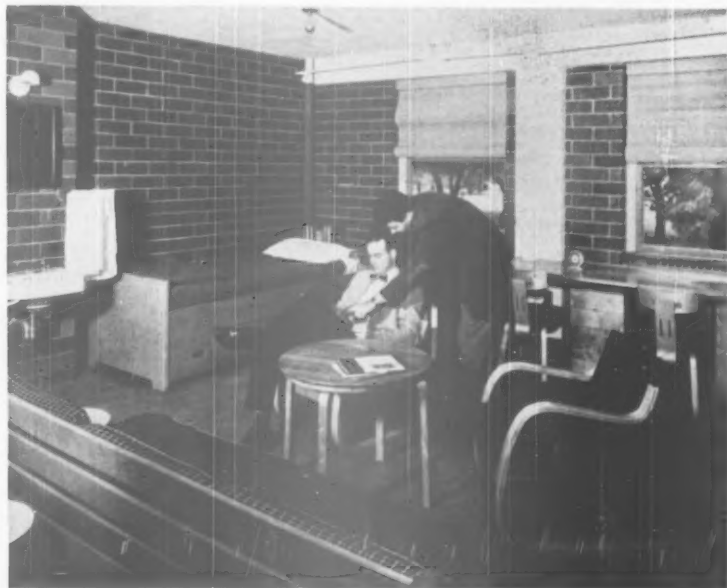
THE curvilinear shape of the building enables the maximum number of rooms to have a view across the Memorial Drive on to the Charles River with its yacht basin. It contains accommodation for 353 senior students, and in the form of sleeping-working cells instead of the more usual combination of bed and living rooms. The wavy plan shape gives a wide variety of plan forms, and wide piers have been incorporated in the interior partition walls to catch floor beams coming in eccentrically and on the diagonal.

The dormitory block has been described by Aalto as "a back drop" to the low dining room block which is top lit with external floodlights which throw illumination down through the same lights that admit daylight.

The building is in reinforced concrete faced with red brick with occasional over-burnt bricks to give a deliberate rough texture.

Windows are double hung sash in wood. Internal wall surfaces are finished in tile. The double bedrooms have partitions in Brazilian pine with heating risers running up them.

Furniture and furnishings were designed by Aalto and the late Mrs. Aalto. Chairs were imported from Sweden. The building was completed early last year, at a cost of 2½ million dollars including equipment.



One of the double bedrooms

BUILDING NOTES

TECHNICAL AND MANAGERIAL TRAINING was the subject of a speech by Mr. D. E. Woodbine Parish, Vice-President of the L.M.B.A., at the September meeting of Central Area No. 2.

Most sections of the building industry are becoming increasingly aware of the need to broaden the technical and managerial training and education at technical colleges and schools so as to ensure the highest standard of industrial efficiency, said Mr. Woodbine Parish. But that awareness is only the first step in the process of understanding the scope and extent of the problem involved.

There is no doubt that in the training offered in the past there has been an undue emphasis upon purely technical subjects, and it is only of recent years that training for management and foremanship has found its way into the curricula of some of the technical colleges and schools providing courses for the building industry.

The successful expansion of this form of training so urgently needed at the present time, depends almost entirely upon the enthusiasm and efforts of the building trades employers. It requires their willingness to co-operate wholeheartedly with the educational authorities in selecting and encouraging suitable candidates for training, and, during the initial stages, in affording every possible assistance in the provision of capable lecturers, trainers and discussion group leaders from among their staffs to conduct these new courses, because it is essentially practical and not theoretical instruction that is required.

The National Federation is constantly trying to establish far closer liaison between its members and technical colleges throughout the country so as to co-ordinate the joint responsibility of employers and educationists in dealing with this matter.

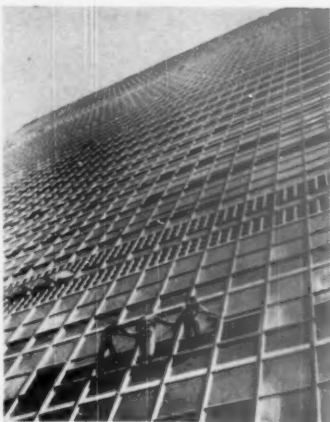
Considerable progress has already been made in the establishment of courses of foremanship training, but it will require time and patience to institute and develop on satisfactory lines the various forms of managerial training required by such a complex and diverse industry as building.

The results of the empiric work already undertaken are very encouraging, and I am confident that, provided building trade employers are prepared to realise the importance and urgency of the matter, and give an enlightened lead to all in their employment, a steady improvement in general supervision and administration in the industry will result.

A PROPOSAL TO CLOSE the 300-pupil Brighton Secondary School of Building and Engineering in 1955-6 is contained in the Draft Development Plan for Primary and Secondary Schools in Brighton: it is proposed to provide facilities for technical education in the grammar schools and secondary modern schools.

The Brighton and Hove Building Employers Association, however, contend that the type of teaching in the present building school is far superior to the elementary teaching of "handicraft" subjects at the secondary modern and grammar schools. They view the proposed closing with concern. Instruction given at the present school is practical, the Development Plan, they say, seems to envisage theoretical, rather than practical, training. Consequently, pupils would not receive from grammar and secondary schools the best instruction to enable them to take up apprenticeship in the building industry.

Since the school was opened in 1945 the building industry in Brighton and Hove locality has benefited to a great degree from the stream of apprentices who have graduated from the school. Each year ninety students



Cleaning the windows of the new United Nations Headquarters may provide arithmetic teachers with a new sum for their classes. If seven cleaners work fifty-two weeks to clean 6,000 windows, how often does each window get cleaned?

have taken up apprenticeships in the building and engineering trades.

The employers feel that the very fact of such a proposal being put forward and accepted by the Brighton Education Committee implies that those in the inner circles are out of sympathy with the principles laid down in the Education Act, which reflects that future prosperity rests largely on maintaining and developing technical efficiency.

The Education Officer for Brighton, has stated that there seems little likelihood that the school will close in 1955-56, as was originally anticipated. He said, however, "In the recent revision the Education Committee felt that secondary technical education could best be provided in Brighton by developing the grammar school on the technological side and by making provision in the modern schools for craftsmen and technicians or those who might become craftsmen and technicians."

The Development Plan states that while junior technical schools, have in the past achieved considerable success, their further development or even continuance in their present form is undesirable for a number of reasons, and quotes a Ministry of Education pamphlet as stating:

"The aim is not to produce little engineers or builders nicely adjusted to strict industrial requirements, but rather through the interest created in the curriculum with a broad relation to future careers, to send out pupils equipped with a good general education that will stand them in good stead in whatever occupation they may enter, and will certainly enable them to embrace skilled employment with interest and competence."

The Plan suggests that as a long-term policy much of the work hitherto done in secondary technical schools will be done either in grammar or modern schools.

The Association have replied to this statement by pointing out that the course at Hanover Terrace provides a continuation of general education with a "gentle bias" towards building subjects and some introduction to craft experience. There is thus no obligation on the part of students to enter the building industry and a feature at the school has been

the wide variety of occupations chosen by the students, coupled with the special attention given to developing their main interests as to a career, has ensured as far as possible that they will be fitted to rise to the highest positions in their industry.

No industry is supporting further technical education more wholeheartedly than the builders, the Association states, and the foundation of all their work lies in the Secondary Technical School.

A "PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT COURSE" is being provided at the L.C.C. Brixton School of Building during the coming season. The Course includes three classes: (a) Nature of Management; (b) Background of Management; (c) Basis of Management Practice.

Outline syllabuses are given in the School's pamphlet dealing with Adult and Post Advance Courses, of which copies may be obtained from the Secretary of the School. The Course will open on Monday, October 9 (not October 2 as stated in the School Prospectus).

THE PRINCIPAL GEOLOGIST of the Geological Survey and Museum will lecture on "The Work of the Water Department of the Geological Survey" at the opening Sessional Meeting of the Institution of Sanitary Engineers on October 17 at 6.30 p.m. in the Museum, Exhibition Road, S.W.7.

The meeting is open to all grades of members and their friends.

THE NORTH BRITISH RUBBER COMPANY of Edinburgh announce the appointment of Mr. Leighton Smith as Director of Sales for the Mechanical and General Products Division of the Company.

LAXTON'S BUILDERS' PRICE BOOK is again available after a lapse of ten years (124th edition dated 1950, edited by P. T. Walters, F.R.I.C.S.; publishers Kelly's Directories Ltd., 186 Strand, London, W.C.2). The price is 30s. net.

All parts of the book have been exhaustively revised and brought up-to-date and the prices given are in accordance with those now ruling.

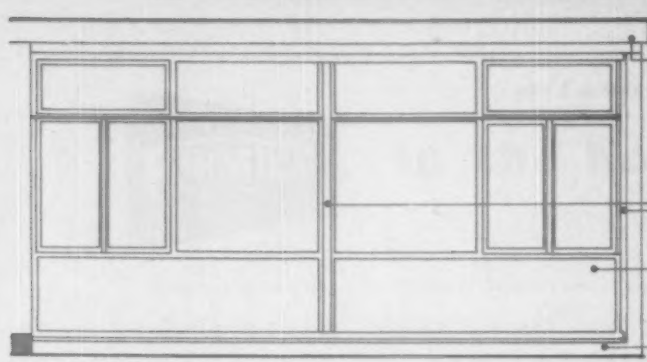
The main part of the book contains 418 pages and is divided into 37 sections covering prices in all branches. The classification of the sections is as far as is practicable in line with the trade headings and sequence of the latest edition of the Standard Method of Measurement of Building Works. A very exhaustive general index provides quick reference to any particular item mentioned in any section.

Another important part of the book containing 251 pages is the list of brands and trade names printed on blue paper for ease of reference and containing some 10,000 items, together with a separate alphabetical list of names and addresses, etc., of firms connected therewith.

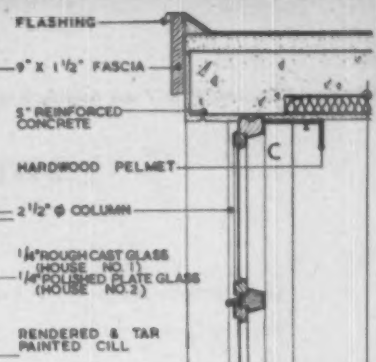
Tables are included showing the standard rates of wages for the building trade for a large number of towns in England and Wales. There is also much useful data in the special "Tables and Memoranda" portion of the book.

Owing to demand, this book, went out of print immediately after publication. The book has been reprinted and to avoid disappointment, it is advisable to order a copy through the publishers without delay.

THE BAKELITE LIMITED private exhibition, will be visiting Scotland for the first time at the beginning of November. The exhibition will be held in the Exhibition Hall, The Engineering Centre, 351 Sauchiehall



ELEVATION



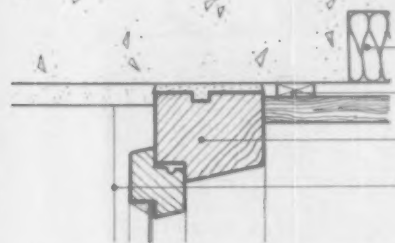
- FLASHING
- 9" X 1 1/2" FASCIA
- 5" REINFORCED CONCRETE
- HARDWOOD PELMET
- 2 1/2" Ø COLUMN
- 1/4" TROUGH CAST GLASS (HOUSE NO. 1)
- 1/4" POLISHED PLATE GLASS (HOUSE NO. 2)
- RENDERED & TAR PAINTED CILL



PLAN • 1/4" TO ONE FOOT

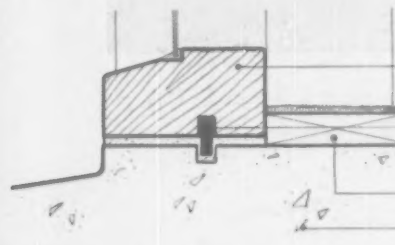
PELMET CARRIED ON TO WALL 3' 8 1/2"

- LINE OF PELMET OVER
- GLAZED DOOR
- 2 1/2" Ø COLUMN



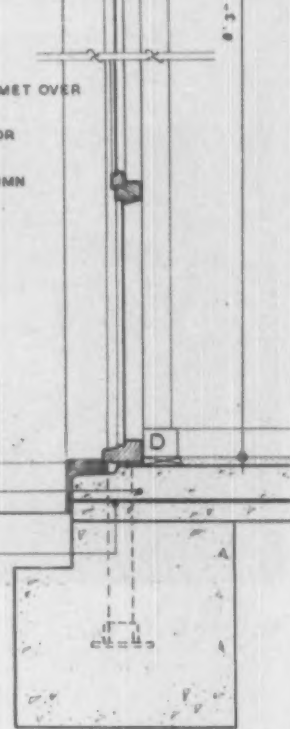
DETAIL AT 'B'

- 2" WOODWOOL INSULATION
- 1" X 1/4" ROUGH GROUND
- 3" X 2" WOOD FRAME
- LINE OF METAL POST
- TARRED PLINTH
- 4" NO-PINES CONCRETE

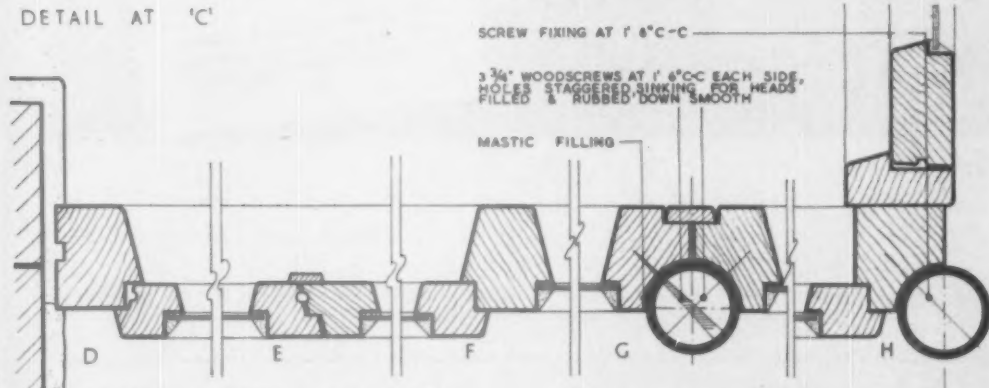


DETAIL AT 'C'

- D.P.C.
- 4 1/2" X 2 1/2" CILL
- FITTED CARPET
- WATER BAR IN MASTIC
- 4" X 1" WOOD BLOCK
- 4" CONCRETE

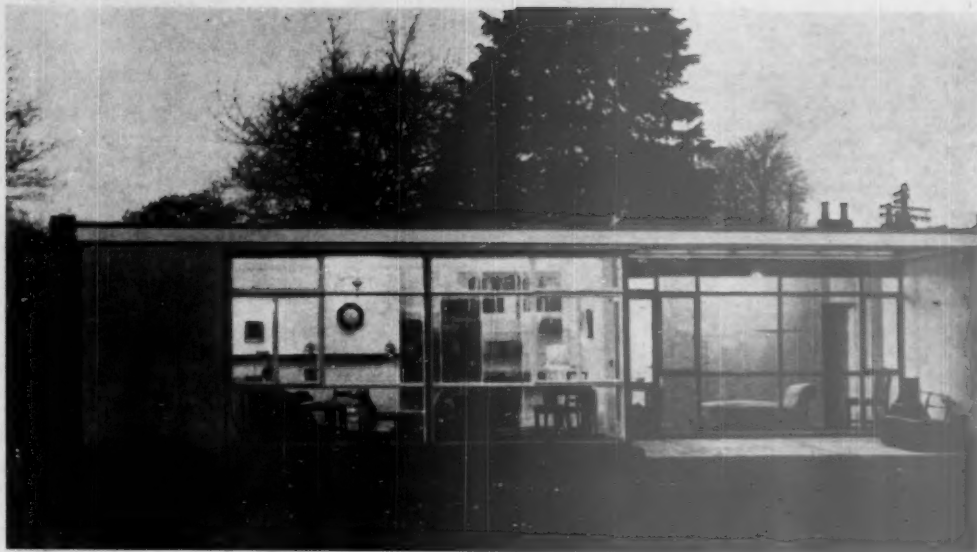


SECTION AA • 1/2" TO 1' 0"



PLAN • QUARTER FULL SIZE

- SCREW FIXING AT 1' 6" C-C
- 3 3/4" WOODSCREWS AT 1' 6" CC EACH SIDE, HOLES STAGGERED, SINKING FOR HEADS FILLED & RUBBED DOWN SMOOTH
- MASTIC FILLING



WINDOW : HOUSES IN CHICHESTER
ARCHITECTS : POWELL AND MOYA




in the home

As an aid to the Architect, FORMICA is far more than a decoration. A rigid laminated plastic board of immense strength, FORMICA provides PERMANENT beauty on vertical and horizontal surfaces. It is easily and speedily fitted and is unaffected by boiling water and acids or alkalis normally used in the kitchen. A wipe with a damp cloth is the only maintenance required.

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no pores to hold dust or germs.
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stays new-looking always.
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normally a wipe with a damp cloth is all that is required.
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resistant to abrasion.
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withstands temperatures up to 120° C.
- **ECONOMICAL**
first cost is the last cost.

* Modern kitchen, with wall panelling and cabinets in blue and grey linette 'Formica'. Fabricated by Permutops Ltd.



FORMICA is available in a range of fade-proof colours to suit every decorative scheme. Please write for technical details.

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BUILT-UP BITUMINOUS ROOFING

chosen for the

WILTON ESTATE FLATS

Greenwood Road, Hackney

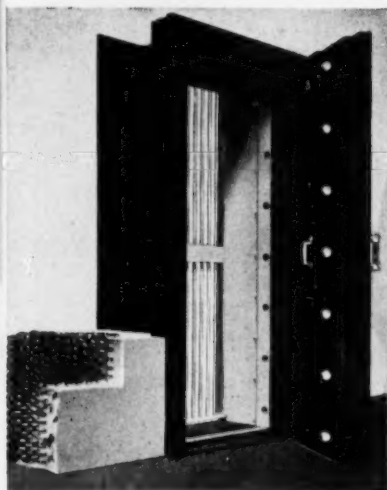
Architects: Norman & Dawbarn. Contractors: J. M. Hill & Sons Ltd.

NEUCHATEL

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Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham, Portsmouth, Plymouth, Frome, Belfast.



The CHATWOOD range includes fire resisting doors for book rooms and doors offering full protection against fire and every known method of burglar attack. CHATWOOD strongrooms are constructed in either pre-cast concrete blocks or with concrete cast in situ and reinforced with patent spiral steel reinforcement, as shown in the sectional view of the wall. The result is a protective structure of strong-room door and room of granite hardness, uniform in density and of immense resistance to penetration.

PROVED ON THEIR OWN RECORD



In the strongrooms of the leading Banks, Business and Commercial Houses and Municipal Authorities at home and abroad, you would find doors designed, produced and fitted by Chatwood. Their resistance to fire and theft has been demonstrated by practical test in all conditions over nearly a century. Water-tight doors of various types are produced to suit particular requirements. The first circular strongroom door ever installed in this country was made in the Chatwood Works and today guards the treasury of a London Bank.

CHATWOOD

THE CHATWOOD SAFE AND
ENGINEERING COMPANY LTD.
SHREWSBURY, ENGLAND

Agents for Eire: T. & C. Martin, Ltd., D'Olier House, 21-24 D'Olier Street, Dublin, C.S.

Street, Glasgow, C.2. On November 7 it will open from 2 to 6; on November 8 and 10 from 10 to 6; and on November 9 from 10 to 8. Visitors will be admitted on the production of a business card.

DETAILS OF THE PRESTRESSED CONCRETE sword feature at Leeds Building Week have been sent to us by McCall & Co. (Sheffield) Ltd. (See photo A. & B.N. Sept. 29). The sword, designed to demonstrate the properties of prestressed concrete is 50 feet high, with a wing span of 36 feet, and weighs 5 tons.

Reinforcement consists of three $\frac{3}{4}$ " diametric vertical bars in the hilt and blade and four $\frac{3}{4}$ " bars in the transverse member.

The concrete has a minimum crushing strength of 8,000 lbs. per square inch and made in short sections assembled with dry joints.

The sword has been dismantled for re-use.

BRITISH STANDARD for mobile heaters for tar and bitumen (B.S.1676: 1950), just issued, covers mobile heaters normally used with tar and bitumen for the following purposes: (1) Road construction work and general maintenance; (2) Preparation of matrix in the manufacture of road material; (3)

Surface dressing operations (stand-by heaters).

The standard is intended to provide guidance for manufacturers and users of these heaters on capacity and features of construction, and to facilitate economic production by limiting the number of sizes of heaters.

Copies may be obtained from the British Standards Institution, Sales Department, 24 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, price 2s. post free.

SOUND REPRODUCTION EQUIPMENT to be installed in the Royal Festival Hall will comprise three main systems and two intercommunicating systems.

The Concert Hall system will have two amplifying channels each connected to a six-channel microphone mixer and the outputs coupled to a duplicate bank of three loudspeakers. This equipment, controlled from a console in the auditorium will be used either as a stereophonic system or as a single channel mon-aural system. A portion of the outputs of the Concert Hall equipment will feed a second system, the amplifier of which will provide power for Deaf Aid outlets to be fitted into the arms of seats in the Hall.

The third system, a central internal broadcasting network, is intended primarily for announcements to the Foyers, Vestibules and

Promenades. This system can receive inputs from ten microphone positions and broadcast to any number or all of twenty loudspeaker groups; it is controlled from a desk to be located in the Sound Control Room which will also accommodate supervisory gear for the other systems.

Intercommunication systems will be of the loudspeaking telephone equipment type. The Steward, an administrative official of the Concert Hall, will be able to carry on a two-way conversation with twenty extensions, either individually or collectively. His control position will be adjacent to, and will have a full view of, the Concert Platform.

The restaurants will have a similar system, enabling staff of the upper and lower restaurants and the wine cellar to carry on two-way conversation with the kitchen. The apparatus in this case will be housed in the service lift architraves and will form a combined feature with the lift panels.

The design and installation of the entire electrical systems for the Royal Festival Hall has been the responsibility of the L.C.C.'s Chief Engineer, Mr. J. Rawlinson, M.Sc., M.I.C.E., M.I.M.C.E. The contract for sound reproduction equipment has been placed with Standard Telephones and Cables Ltd.

THE MANUFACTURE OF ... STRUCTURAL PANELS FROM RESIN IMPREGNATED PAPER

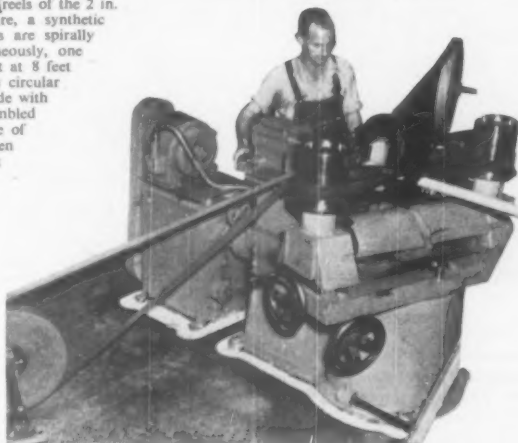
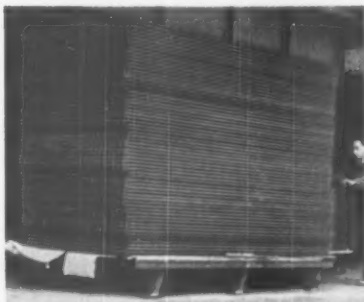
The smaller picture right shows "Holoplast" completed panels being moved from the factory, in which these photographs were taken, to the despatch department. The time taken to transform the raw materials, comprising kraft paper and phenol-formaldehyde water-soluble resin, into a finished 8ft. 0ins. x 4ft. 0ins. structural panel is one hour. In this article the stages of manufacture are described and illustrated.

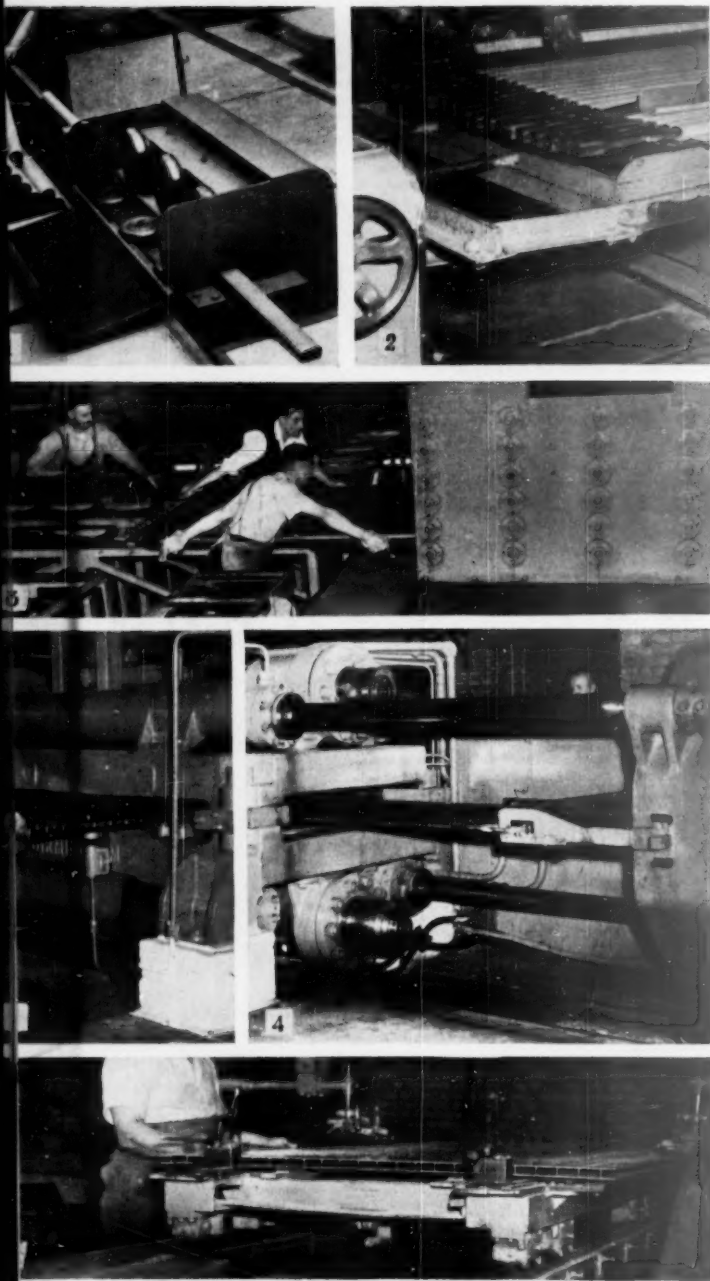
The unsized paper — impregnated with phenol-formaldehyde resin — comes to the factory in two forms, namely, 2ins. rolled strips and flat sheets 110ins. wide.

THE first operation is the building up of cylindrical tubes from reels of the 2 in. paper. During this process, illustrated in the lower picture, a synthetic adhesive is incorporated to prevent unravelling, since the tubes are spirally rolled without overlap. Two machines roll these tubes simultaneously, one with left hand and one with right hand spiral. The tubes are cut at 8 feet lengths and pass through a rolling machine which converts the circular section to a rectangular section (see Fig. 1, page 398). Side by side with this tube-making operation, the flat impregnated sheets are assembled in several layers and placed on a metal baseplate. Twenty-three of the tubes, which at this stage are only roughly rectangular, are then placed side by side on top of the flat sheets; left hand and right hand spirals being placed alternately for added strength. Into each tube two accurately machine-tapered mandrels of high tensile steel are then inserted from opposite ends. These mandrels form the tubes into accurate rectangles and, by adjustment and clamping, give the correct finished internal size to the panel (see Fig. 2). A second set of impregnated sheets is then placed on top of the tubes; the outer top and bottom sheets may be special veneers. A second metal sheet is placed on top of the assembly. The unit is clamped together and at this stage weighs about 2 tons.

The stainless steel plates of the assemblies are replaced by resilient plates if a mottled or hammered effect is required on the finished surface.

The problem of transporting such weights from process to process, rapidly and without





The illustrations above show (1) circular rolls being converted into rectangular sections, (2) tapered steel mandrels being inserted into the rectangular tubes, (3) the complete assembly comprising 23 tubes between flat sheets of impregnated paper all sandwiched between metal plates being manhandled into the charging unit, (4) the mandrels are withdrawn from both sides of the extractor while (5) the pressed assemblies are manhandled from the backs of the extractor. (6) High speed circular saws trim the edges true.

complicated machinery, has been overcome by accurate planning of swivelling roller-topped tables, over which the assembly is now manhandled, via the charging unit, into the press. This charging unit takes six complete assemblies, one above the other, at one time; and since the roller table tops are all at the same level the charging unit itself is hydraulically raised and lowered to the required heights to receive the assemblies and feed them into the 3,500 ton press (Fig. 3). From the press the panel assemblies are extracted by a discharging unit at the opposite end after they have been automatically water cooled.

This complete loading and unloading operation takes 90 seconds.

Inside the press the paper tubes and outer layers are subjected to a vertical pressure of 1,500 lbs. per square inch at 145 centigrade. At the same time side pressure is exerted. Under the influence of these pressures and steam heat the paper layers and tubes are consolidated into a rigid homogeneous unit with a "honeycomb" section core. The panels are now rolled to an extractor machine. Here, under opposing pulls of 500 tons, the mandrels are withdrawn from both ends of the assembly (Fig. 4), the panels themselves being subject to the full stress, an adequate test of their strength. The assemblies are then withdrawn separately from the same machine (Fig. 5), the metal plates are removed and the panels are rolled to the trimming shop (Fig. 6) where the rough edges are dressed true.

Until further notice the usual features printed under the heading "News of the Building Industry" will be discontinued for reasons beyond the control of the Architect and Building News. Discontinued features include Mosaics—Good, Bad or Indifferent—Accidents in Building.

Finished panels are produced in either 1 in. or 1½ in. thicknesses.

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Apart from incorporated veneers it is also possible to apply veneers to the panels or to perforate them for acoustic reasons as for the panels used in the Royal Festival Hall.

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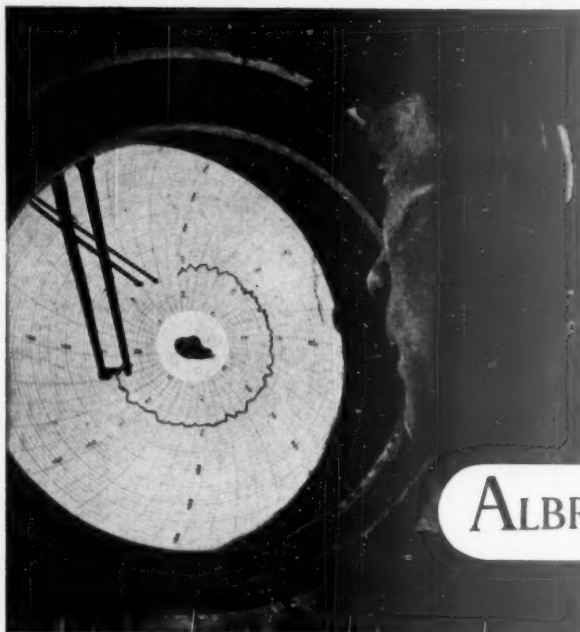
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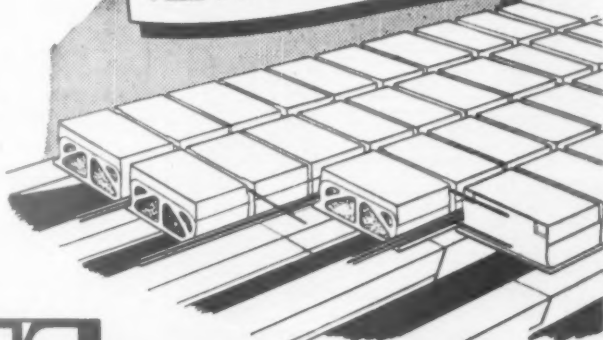
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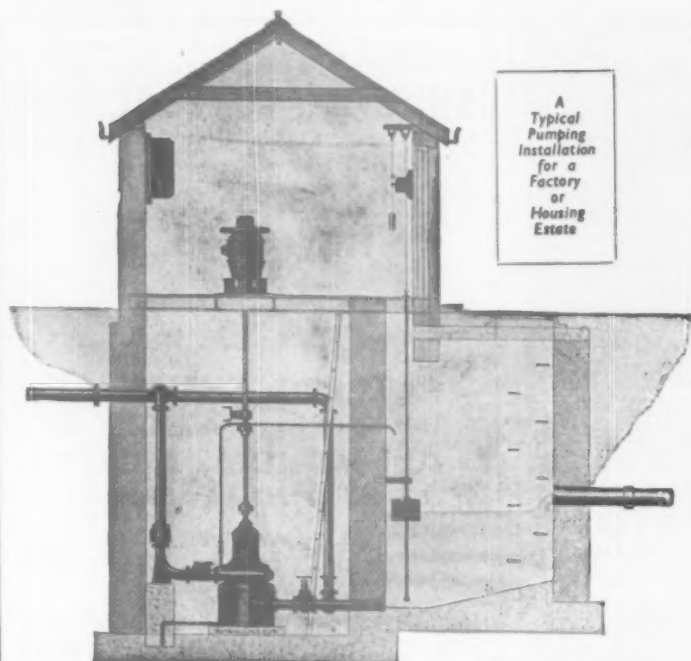
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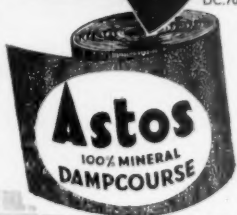
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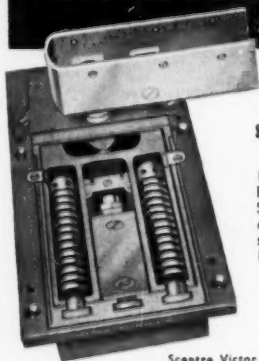
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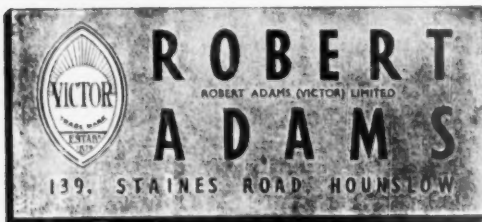


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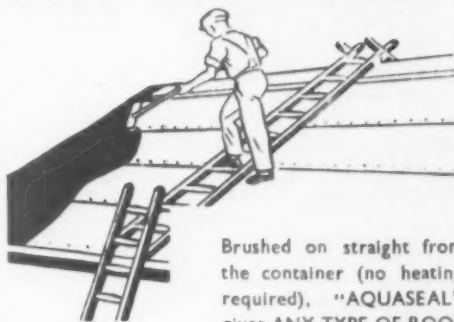
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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOROUGH OF WILLESDEN.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

THE Council invite applications for the appointment of an ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT on the Permanent Staff of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

The salary attaching to the post will be Administrative Professional and Technical Grade VI of the National Whitley Council's Scale for the London Area, namely £595 per annum rising by two annual increments of £20 per annum and one of £25 per annum to £660 per annum, plus London Weighting of £30 per annum.

Candidates must be Associates of the Royal Institute of British Architects, or hold an equivalent qualification, and preferably have general knowledge and experience of architectural work in the service of a local authority.

The appointment will be terminable by one month's notice on either side, is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Applications, giving age, experience, etc., accompanied by copies of not more than three testimonials, should be addressed to the undersigned, endorsed "Architectural Assistant," not later than 10 a.m. on Monday, 23rd October, 1950.

It will be necessary for the successful candidate to provide his own housing accommodation as the Council is not in a position to assist.

Canvassing, directly or indirectly, will be deemed a disqualification.

(Signed) R. S. FORSTER, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Wyke Road,
Kilburn, N.W.6.

15th September, 1950. [4841]

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment in the Buildings Department, of an ASSISTANT ARCHITECT at a salary within A.P.T. Grades V/VI (£50-£600).

Applicants, who must be members of the Royal Institute of British Architects, should for preference have completed a full-time course at a recognised school of architecture and be conversant with methods of research. In addition, they should have good experience in the design and supervision of both large and small building schemes, and be capable of taking charge of such schemes.

Previous experience with a local authority is not essential, but experience on school buildings will be an advantage.

The post is supernumerary and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Applications on forms obtainable from the County Architect, Springfield, Maidstone, should be delivered to him not later than 14 days after the appearance of this advertisement.

W. L. PLATTIS,
Clerk of the County Council,
County Hall, Maidstone.
15th September, 1950. [4837]

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.
TOWN PLANNING STAFF.

APPLICATIONS are invited for positions of TECHNICAL ASSISTANT (Scales: (a) £440-£580; (b) £580-£670; (c) £670-£750) in the Planning Division of the Architect's Department. Candidates should be trained draughtsmen experienced in lettering and in the preparation and colouring of plans.—Application forms from the Architect (AR/EP), The County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1, enclosing stamped addressed envelope. Canvassing disqualifies. (1193). [4831]

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for positions of ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT (salaries up to £580 a year) in the Housing and Valuation Department. Commencing salaries will be determined according to qualifications and experience. Engagement will be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Acts, and successful candidates will be eligible for consideration for appointment to the permanent staff on the occurrence of vacancies.

Successful candidates will be required to assist in the design, layout and preparation of working drawings for housing schemes (cottages and multi-storey flats) and will be employed in the Housing Architect's Division.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Director of Housing, The County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1 (stamped addressed envelope required and quote reference A.A.1). Canvassing disqualifies. (1616). [48101]

WAR DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following vacancies in the Fortifications and Works Directorate at Chesham, Surrey.—

1. ASSISTANT MECHANICAL ENGINEER (H. & V.). Applicants should be A.M.I.Mech.E., but those without this qualification who are A.M.I.H.A.E. will be considered. Must have good practical experience of heating, ventilating and air conditioning installations.

2. TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS (Architectural), (2 vacancies). Should have experience in preparing specifications of architectural projects, examination of applicable British Standard Specifications and Code of Practice and collation of data and extracts from publications as required by architects. Applicants should be of Intermediate R.I.C.S. standard.

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[4861]

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WOLVERHAMPTON.

ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT (GRADE III, A.P.T.).

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of an ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT—salary A.P.T. Division, Grade III (£450 x £15 to £495) per annum—on the staff of the Borough Engineer's Department.

The appointment, terminable by one month's notice on either side, is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

The Conditions of Service will be those of the National Joint Council for Local Authorities' Administrative, Professional, Technical and Clerical Services.

Applications, stating age, qualifications, present position and full details of experience, together with copies of three recent testimonials, should be delivered to the undersigned not later than Friday, 11th October, 1950, in an envelope endorsed "Architectural Assistant."

J. BROCK ALLON, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Wolverhampton. [4863]

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CLERK OF WORKS FOR NEW MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above post. Salary £8 8s. 6d. per week. Applications will be considered only from those with considerable practical experience of similar work.

Applications (which must be submitted upon the prescribed form obtainable from the undersigned), accompanied by copies of two recent testimonials, to be lodged with the undersigned not later than noon on 14th October, 1950.

CHARLES D. CHAPMAN, Town Clerk. [4857]

COUNTY BOROUGH OF SOUTHEND-ON-SEA EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

MUNICIPAL COLLEGE.

Principal: R. W. Wilson, B.Sc.(Eng.), A.C.G.I., Whit.Sch., D.L.C., A.M.I.E.E.

Appointment of Part-Time Lecturer in Building Construction in the School of Architecture.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of a LECTURER in Building Construction to the First and Second Years of the Full-Time Course of Architecture for one day per week at a salary of £4 4s. 6d. per day plus recognised travelling expenses. Previous teaching experience is not essential.—Applications should be by letter addressed to the Principal, stating qualifications and professional experience. The appointment is required as soon as possible.

H. BOYES-WATSON, M.C., M.A.,
Chief Education Officer. [4854]

BOROUGH OF CHINGFORD.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

(Grade IV: £480-£525 per annum plus London Weighting).

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment within the permanent establishment of the Department of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, from whom application forms may be obtained.

Applicants must have passed the Intermediate Examination of the Royal Institute of British Architects, and have worked in an Architectural Office for at least two years.

Applications on the forms prescribed should be delivered to me not later than 14th October, 1950. Canvassing will disqualify.

FRANCIS J. O'DOWD, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Chingford, E.4.
29th September, 1950. [4855]

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

QUANTITY SURVEYOR required by the Gold Coast Government for the Public Works Department for two tours of 18-24 months in the first instance. Salary (including overseas pay) up to £1,450 a year according to qualifications and experience. Cost of living allowance at present up to £165 a year. Gratuity of £37 10s. for each completed 3 months' service, payable on satisfactory completion of service. Outfit allowance up to £30. Free passages, liberal leave on full salary. Candidates under 45 must have had considerable experience in preparing bills of quantities and contract documents for buildings of large and medium size.—Apply at once by letter, stating age, full names in block letters, and full particulars of qualifications and experience, and mentioning this paper, to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1, quoting M/N/25061/1A on both letter and envelope. The Crown Agents cannot undertake to acknowledge all applications and will communicate only with applicants selected for further consideration. [4862]

ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKCALDY.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the permanent appointment of SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT in the Burgh Engineer's Department. Salary Grade Va (£550-£610).

Candidate should have good general experience and in addition hold appropriate qualifications. Housing accommodation is available if required.

Applications, giving full particulars of experience, age, qualifications, etc., accompanied by three testimonials, should be lodged with the Burgh Engineer, Osborne House, East Fernus Place, Kirkcaldy, not later than Saturday, 21st October, 1950. [4859]

THE LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL invites

applications from ARCHITECTS in private practice for inclusion on a panel to act in a professional capacity on the preparation of schemes for repairs and reconstruction of war damaged buildings and construction of new buildings in the Council's Parks and Open Spaces.—Applications to the Chief Officer of the Parks Department, Old County Hall, Spring Gardens, S.W.1, not later than 27th October, 1950, accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and brief particulars of qualifications and experience in this work. (1226). [4839]

BOROUGH OF LEIGH.

APPOINTMENT OF SECOND ENGINEERING ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of SECOND ENGINEERING ASSISTANT in the Department of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grade VI of the National Scale of Salaries (£295-£460).

Candidates should have passed the "Testament" Examination of the Institution of Municipal Engineers or hold an equivalent qualification. Preference will be given to applicants with previous experience in Road and Sewer Works, Surveying, Levelling and general Municipal Engineering, and capable of taking charge of Housing Schemes, including the preparation of plans, sections, estimates, lay-outs, etc.

The appointment, which will be subject to the National Scheme of Conditions of Service of Local Government Officers, to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and to the successful candidate passing satisfactorily a medical examination to be conducted by the Council's Medical Officer of Health, will be determinable by one month's notice on either side. Every candidate must disclose in writing whether to his knowledge he is related to any member of the Council or to the holder of any senior office under the Council. Canvassing of members of the Council, directly or indirectly, will disqualify.

Applications, endorsed "Second Engineering Assistant," stating age, present and previous appointments, and giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, together with the names of three persons to whom reference may be made, must reach the undersigned not later than the 21st October, 1950.

ALBERT JONES, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Leigh, Lancs. [4665]

BOROUGH OF LEIGH.

APPOINTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTOR.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of BUILDING INSPECTOR in the Department of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grade I of the National Scale of Salaries (£390-£415).

Candidates should have previous experience in Building Inspection and have a thorough knowledge of Building Materials and Construction, Drainage and Building Bylaws, competent to prepare concise reports, have a knowledge of procedure under the Licensing Regulations and be conversant with Planning procedure. Preference will be given to candidates possessing the Building Inspector's Certificate of either the Institution of Municipal Engineers or the Royal Institute of British Architects, or other equivalent qualifications.

The appointment, which will be subject to the National Scheme of Conditions of Service of Local Government Officers, to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and to the successful candidate passing satisfactorily a medical examination to be conducted by the Council's Medical Officer of Health, will be determinable by one month's notice on either side. Every candidate must disclose in writing whether to his knowledge he is related to any member of the Council or to the holder of any senior office under the Council. Canvassing of members of the Council, directly or indirectly, will disqualify.

Applications, endorsed "Building Inspector," stating age, qualifications and experience and accompanied by copies of not more than two recent testimonials, must reach the undersigned not later than the 21st October, 1950.

ALBERT JONES, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Leigh, Lancs. [4666]

COUNTY BOROUGH OF CROYDON.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

CHIEF QUANTITY SURVEYING ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for this appointment at salary A.P.T. VIII, £685 x £25 to £760 p.a., plus London Weighting. Preference will be given to Chartered Quantity Surveyors.

If the successful candidate is unable to obtain reasonable living accommodation the Corporation will endeavour to assist him.

The appointment is pensionable, subject to medical examination.

Form of application may be obtained from the Borough Engineer, Town Hall, Croydon, and should be returned to him within 14 days after this advertisement is published.

Canvassing will disqualify.
E. TABERNER, Town Clerk.
15th September, 1950. [4664]

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF HAVANT

AND WATERLOO.

CLERK OF WORKS.

APPLICATIONS are invited from qualified persons for the post of CLERK OF WORKS in connection with the Council's Housing Programme.

The appointment will be on a temporary basis dependent on the progress made with Post-War housing, and will be subject to one month's notice on either side.

The inclusive salary will be £8 10s. per week. Applicants must have a thorough knowledge of the building and allied trades, be fully conversant with plans and specifications, competent in the measurement and setting out of work and maintaining records.

Forms of application can be obtained from the Engineer of the Council, Council Offices, 1 Park Road North, Havant.

Applications on the forms provided, endorsed "Clerk of Works," to be sent to the undersigned not later than first post on Saturday, the 21st October, 1950.

ALBERT H. MADGWICK,
Clerk of the Council, Town Hall, Havant. [4669]

APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT PLANNING OFFICERS FOR THE SINGAPORE IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

VACANCIES exist on Permanent Staff for:—

(a) ASSISTANT PLANNING OFFICER (Applications);

(b) ASSISTANT PLANNING OFFICER (Engineering).

Qualifications: 3 years' Local Authority Town Planning experience, together with, for (a) A.M.T.P.L. and for (b) A.M.I.Mun.Eng.

Conditions for either appointment: Maximum age 32 years. Subject to medical examination.

Basic salary in range \$500 to \$1,000 per month, starting point above minimum for suitably experienced applicants. Graduated scale of allowances, e.g., present allowances on \$500 p.m. basic amount to: Expatriation \$110 p.m. plus cost of living, \$192 p.m. for single man or \$246 p.m. for married man or \$318 p.m. for married man with family.

Annual increments \$30 p.m. Local taxation much lower than England. One Malayan dollar equals 2s. 4d. Thus a married man with family on basic salary of \$500 would draw equivalent of £1,383 in the first year of service.

Quarters with heavy furniture provided at 8 per cent. of salary or housing allowance of 12 per cent. in lieu. Initial engagement on three years' agreement, 6 months' leave after four years' service. Free medical attention. Passages paid including family. Compulsory Provident Fund Contributions of 7½ per cent. salary plus expatriation allowance and Trust donate 7½ per cent. for first 10 years, increasing to 20 per cent. after 20 years' service.

Applications in duplicate, with full personal and technical information and copies of three testimonials, to Messrs. Peirce & Williams (Agents to the Trust), 1 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, by Tuesday, 7th November, 1950. [4670]

ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS VACANT

EXPERIENCED Qualified Architectural Assistant required, over 35 years of age, to take charge of large Hospital project in Trinidad, British West Indies. Reply, stating previous experience, age, etc., to W. H. Watkins, F.R.I.B.A. & Partners, 1 Clare Street, Bristol (Bristol 20491) and 19 Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1 (Globe 1840). [4653]

LONDON Multiple Retail Company with 100 branches requires Assistant Architect. Post has opportunity for advancement—Apply, giving qualifications, age, details of experience and commencing salary required, to Box 6641, The Architect and Building News. [4658]

WANTED, responsible assistant architect to run office November onwards; good prospects.—Write Box 6572, The Architect and Building News. [4646]

SITUATIONS VACANT

ARCHITECTURAL Metal Workers require a Designer/Draftsman of considerable merit. Top salaried position for skilled man.—Apply The Morris Singer Company, Hope House, Gt. Peter Street, Westminster, S.W.1. [10095]

ESTIMATOR/SURVEYOR required for Building and Decorating Department of West End London House. Good remuneration for keen man, able to work on own initiative. Age 40-45.—State experience, salary required, to Box 6661, The Architect and Building News. [4667]

ARCHITECTURAL Draughtsman required with an experience of factory design.—Applications to be sent together with full details of experience and salary required to Box A.N. 273, at 191 Gresham House, E.C.2. [4640]

SITUATIONS WANTED

CIVIL Engineer recently returned from overseas seeks position with progressive firm or large undertaking. Widely experienced Time and Motion Study, Costs, Statistics, Planning, etc. Now free.—Box 6655, The Architect and Building News. [4660]

SERVICES OFFERED

COMPETENT Architectural Designer, with staff, is now in a position to help out architects, engineers, builders. Complete schemes from sketch plan to working drawings and details prepared.—Museum 5122. [4650]

CONTRACTS

BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW.

ERECTION OF FLATS AND HOUSES.

TENDERS are re-invited for the erection of 4 ONE-ROOM FLATS, 12 TWO-ROOM FLATS, 4 THREE-ROOM MAISONNETTES, AND 3 THREE-BEDROOM HOUSES of traditional construction and comprised as one group of dwellings on a site at Wyatts Lane, Walthamstow, E.17.

Applications to tender should be made to the Borough Architect, Town Hall, Walthamstow, E.17, and must be accompanied by a deposit of £2 2s. 6d. returnable on receipt of a bona-fide tender, and the return of all documents issued. The Bills of Quantities and Form of Tender will be forwarded as soon as possible after the 6th October, 1950, and application should be made not later than this date.

Sealed tenders are to be delivered to the undersigned in the enclosed envelope provided not later than 5 p.m. on Friday, the 27th October, 1950. Plans and Conditions of Contract will be available for inspection at the office of the Borough Architect, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday after the date aforesaid for the issue of the Bills of Quantities.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender.

G. A. BLAKELEY, Town Clerk. [4656]

CONTRACTS WANTED

PARQUET Floor Surfaces (St. Marylebone) Ltd., Homer Street, W.1. Flooring Specialists.—Phone AMB 6523. [4651]

COMPETITION

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITION.

THE Reconstruction Committee invite architects who are British subjects practising in the United Kingdom, the British Commonwealth and Eire to submit designs in competition for a proposed new Cathedral, Chapel of Unity and Christian Service Centre to be erected on a site in the centre of Coventry.

The term "practising architect" means any properly qualified architect whether Principal or Assistant.

The Royal Institute of British Architects have nominated Sir Percy Thomas, LL.D., D.L., F.P.R.I.B.A., Mr. Edward Maufe, R.A., M.A. (Hon.), LL.D., F.R.I.B.A., and Mr. Howard Robinson, M.C., A.R.A., F.R.I.B.A., S.A.D.G., to act as Assessors. Premiums of £2,000, £1,500 and £1,000 will be paid to the authors of the designs placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

The Schedule of Conditions and particulars of site etc., will be ready for issue about the beginning of October, and in the meantime intending competitors should make application to Captain N. T. Thurston, M.C., Secretary to the Reconstruction Committee, 22 Bayley Lane, Coventry, enclosing a deposit of two guineas, which will be returned upon receipt of a bona fide design or upon the return of the Competition documents within one month of receipt of the Answers to Questions.

The latest date for application for the Conditions is October 10th, 1950, and the closing date for the receipt of designs is the 2nd July, 1951.

N. T. THURSTON,
Secretary to Coventry Cathedral Reconstruction Committee.

22 Bayley Lane,
Coventry.
18th August, 1950. [4779]

FOR SALE

FOR sale, Sommerfeld Wire Netting, second-hand, in good condition, in rolls about 25 yards long and 10ft. wide approx. 3in. hexagonal mesh. Price 50s. per roll at our Sheffield Works. Carriage charges extra.—Thos. W. Ward Ltd., Albion Works, Sheffield. (4809)

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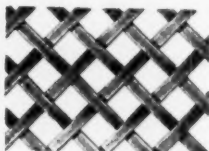
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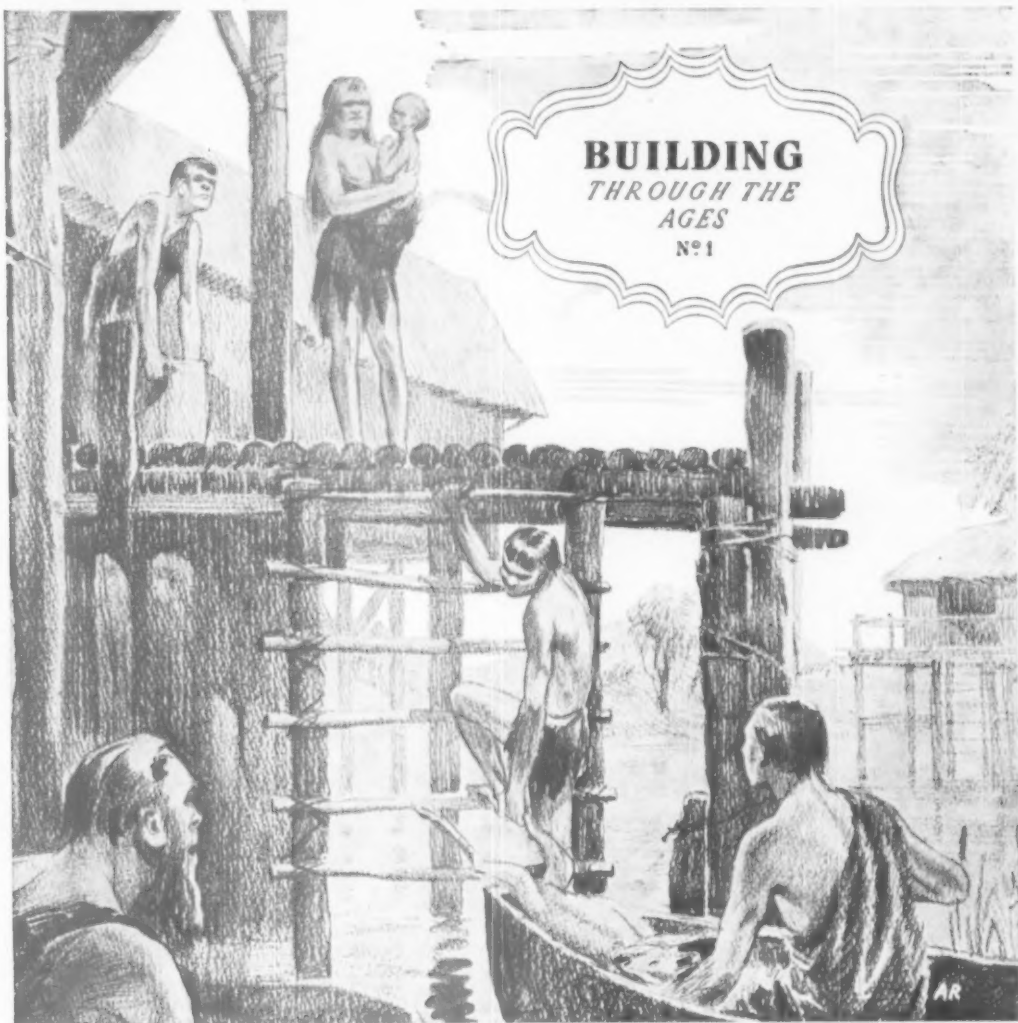
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LAKE DWELLINGS of the Neolithic Period

FOR thousands of years in the long and tortuous history of Man, his only shelter from the elements was some dark cave, cleft either by nature or his own crude efforts. The earliest developments which could, by any stretch of imagination, be described as "building" were simple huts of branches or other easily available timbers.

The first buildings of which any reliable data is obtainable were primitive habitations on the edge, or over the waters, of various Swiss lakes. A typical lake village, as shown, was often built some distance out in the lake, this isolation giving protection from enemies, both human and animal.

The piles which supported the huts were cut and fashioned by stone hatchets, or fire, and on this foundation the flimsy shelter was constructed. The floor platform would be fastened to the piles by wooden pins and lashings. The walls were of thin branches and wattle, made as weathertight as possible by coating with clay. The roof of straw, rushes or bark completed the structure.

Such lake dwellings were common all over Europe from 10000 B.C. down to 300 B.C. It was Man's ever-growing ingenuity in building construction which slowly brought about the transition from these crude shelters to more durable and protective edifices.

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